

Sting's Outrage! "SHERRI COST ME MY SHOT AT IMMORTALITY!"

INSIDE
WRESTLING

Inside

NOVEMBER 1994

Wrestling

FROM THE PUBLISHERS OF PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

**POOR
DIBIASE**

Once His Men
Read This Story
HE'S FINISHED!

RAZOR RAMON:
"DIESEL'S A SMALL,
SMALL MAN, MAN!"
CACTUS JACK VS. SABU:
HARDCORE HEAVEN!

\$1.95 U.S. \$2.50 CANADA £1.95 U.K.



0 72246 00390 9

11

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

THE STORY YOU WON'T GET ON TV COULD BE IN YOUR MAILBOX!

THE LEADER OF THE PACK

For over a decade, **PWI** has been bringing the wrestling arena (and the locker room) to the fans. No other wrestling magazine that covers the entire spectrum of the sport can boast of the same quality writers, editors, and photographers. **PWI** is acknowledged worldwide as the best!

EXCLUSIVE FEATURES

PWI's award-winning staff is always where the action is, providing the most complete coverage of wrestling available anywhere. From the great staff of writers, through the dramatic peak-action photographs, to the magnificent full-color centerfold—**PWI** brings you wrestling action at its best. **PWI** includes exclusive features you can't get anywhere else: Our comprehensive "Arena Reports" . . . Eddie Ellner's lively and controversial "Off The Top Rope" . . . An incisive "Press Conference" with one of the sport's top stars . . . Extensive "Ratings" . . . "Scouting Reports" . . . "Time Capsules" . . . And don't forget: Your subscription to **PWI** includes the spectacular 100-page year-end issue, priced at \$3.50 on the newsstand (if you can find it!) and any other specials we produce throughout the year.

THREE WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE

- Now available for the first time, a six-issue subscription to **PWI**. Six power-packed editions will be delivered right to your door for just \$15.
- Order a 12-issue subscription to **PWI** and receive two issues free! You'll get 14 issues for just \$30—a 17% savings off the regular newsstand price.
- To receive the greatest savings, order a 24-issue subscription to **PWI** at the low price of \$60 and receive six issues free! That's 30 issues for the cost of 24, a 25% savings off the regular newsstand rate!

Don't miss a single issue! Subscribe today!



Yes, I would like to subscribe to PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

- ☐ I am enclosing \$15 for a six-issue subscription
- ☐ I am enclosing \$30 for a 12-issue subscription with the understanding that I will receive two issues free for a total of 14 monthly issues
- ☐ I am enclosing \$60 for a 24-issue subscription with the understanding that I will receive six issues free for a total of 30 monthly issues

Please indicate method of payment (Pennsylvania residents, please add 6% sales tax).

- ☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)
- ☐ VISA # _____
- ☐ MasterCard # _____

Expiration Date: ____/____/____
MO/YR

Send to: London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Price offer good in U.S. and Canada only. Foreign countries: \$19.80 for six issues (\$25.50 airmail); \$39.60 for 12 issues (\$51 airmail); \$79.20 for 24 issues (\$102 airmail). International money order in U.S. funds only for orders outside U.S. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first issue.

1848/04-94

Inside Wrestling®

THE MAGAZINE THAT RIPS
THE LID OFF PRO WRESTLING

- 4 SINCERELY YOURS**
Sedate Sherri! Yeah, That's New; WCW Going Global?
- 6 REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK by Stu Saks**
The evil Bob Backlund?
- 8 NAMES MAKIN' NEWS by Bill Apter**
The latest news from the world of wrestling
- 10 ON THE ROAD with Chris Bernucca**
Sting discovers three into two won't go
- 12 BEHIND THE DRESSING ROOM DOOR by David Rosenbaum**
WCW's stars don't appear awed by "Hulkamania"
- 14 THE INSIDER by Eddie Ellner**
There's a danger in worshipping wrestlers
- 16 ON ASSIGNMENT by Liz Hunter**
Flair vs. Hogan a first? Not quite, WCW
- 18 CAPSULE PROFILE #220**
Looking at WCW's flamboyant Johnny B. Badd
- 20 WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**
Current news on some of wrestling's greats
- 22 NEWS FROM THE WRESTLING CAPITALS**
Highlight matches from several recent cards
- 24 MATT BROCK'S PLAIN SPEAKING**
The veteran columnist speaks his mind
- 26 A 20-YEAR-OLD OPPONENT, A 10-YEAR-OLD FEUD:
IVAN KOLOFF'S CAREER TEETERS ON THE VERGE OF DISASTER**
Was he done in by overconfidence, or a crooked referee?
- 30 AP-PAUL-LING!
ROMA & ORNDORFF SLEAZE THEIR WAY TO THE TOP**
They think they're "Pretty Wonderful"; not everyone agrees
- 34 POOR DiBIASE!**
ONCE HIS MEN READ THIS STORY ... HE'S FINISHED!
Some swindlers turned the tables on the "Million-Dollar Man"
- 38 STING'S OUTRAGE!**
"SHERRI COST ME MY SHOT AT IMMORTALITY!"
He says Ms. Martel halted his drive for a fourth WCW World title
- 42 "DIESEL'S A SMALL, SMALL MAN, MAN!"**
Razor Ramon cuts the Intercontinental champ to size in "Hotseat"
- 46 THE WWF'S HOTTEST BREWING FEUD:
CRUSH & CORNETTE VS. YOKOZUNA & FUJI!**
This foursome may be well on the way to splitting up
- 50 CACTUS JACK VS. SABU: HARDCORE HEAVEN!**
ECW fans love mayhem. These two stars give them just that
- 54 ONE ON ONE: RIC FLAIR VS. HULK HOGAN**
The rivalry is renewed, WCW style
- 64 OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS**
The top 15 rankings in six important categories
- 65 INSIDE WRESTLING ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS**
All the champions, from all the federations
- 66 BLAST FROM THE PAST**
King Kong vs. Dusty: Everything old is new again

STANLEY WESTON
Founder

PUBLISHER Stuart M. Saks
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER Craig Peters
SENIOR EDITOR Bill Apter
MANAGING EDITOR V. J. Paterno
ASSOCIATE EDITOR David Lenker
ART DIRECTOR Barbara Ann Brady
ART ASSOCIATES Tina Filice
..... Jon Gerner
..... Joseph Kalman
..... Alex Krasnopolsky
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR Bob Eddy
PRODUCTION ASSOCIATES Cliff Campo
..... Bernard V. Thompson III
..... Ron Frankhouser
SENIOR WRITERS David Rosenbaum
..... Andy Rodriguez
..... Chris Bernucca
..... Eddie Ellner
PHOTO EDITOR Jason Ross Lavin
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Matt Brock
..... Elizabeth A. Hunter

PRESIDENT

Kenneth J. Gudaitis

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT/CIRCULATION

Charles Walker

TECHNICAL ADVISER/PRODUCTION

Doug Heller

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

David Gerhardt

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR

Robert Nucci

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES

Nancy Parsons

P.O. Box 910

Fort Washington, PA 19034

INSIDE WRESTLING (ISSN: 1047-9562) is published monthly by London Publishing Co., 7002 West Butler Pike, Ambler, PA 19002. Second-class postage paid at Rockville Centre, NY, 11571 and additional post offices. POSTMASTER: Send change of address to "Inside Wrestling," P.O. Box 910, Ft. Washington, PA 19034. Single copy price \$1.95 (\$2.50 in Canada, £1.95 in U.K.) Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope bearing the proper amount of postage. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES: (310) 572-7272. U.S. and Canadian distribution by Kable News Company Inc., 11 West 42nd St., New York, NY 10036. International distribution (excluding U.K.) by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY 10010. U.K. distribution by Comag, Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77QE, England. Printed in U.S.A.

Next issue on sale September 27

Sincerely Yours

**Send letters to:
Sincerely Yours
P.O. Box 956
Fort Washington, PA
19034**

SEDATE SHERRI!

A rose by any other name is still just as thorny. The erstwhile Sensational Sherri Martel may now be in WCW using a different nickname, but little else has changed. The titillating tart of torrid temptation is at it again!

In the WWF, she flitted from man to man like a pollinating bee. First, Randy Savage. Then, Ted DiBiase, Shawn Michaels, and a brief flirtation with Rick Martel. In ECW, she managed to sink her

Whether she's "Sensational" or "Sensuous," reader Richard Evans is wary of Sherri Martel. He says her track record manipulating wrestlers such as Shane Douglas should make everyone on WCW's roster suspicious of her.

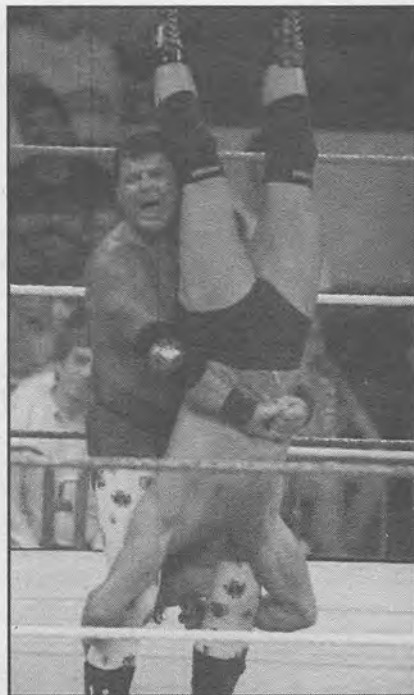


hooks into Shane Douglas.

In WCW, the Sensuous One is admittedly "searching for a man to fulfill all her needs and desires." That in itself is enough to send the promotion's entire talent roster running to the hills. Let's hope the WCW wrestlers will be smart enough to rebuke the advances of the hustling harlot of heartbreak.

Somebody please take her out into the TBS parking lot and hose her down before it's too late. The love (and career) you save may be your own.

**RICHARD EVANS
Gulfport, MS**



Veterans Jerry Lawler and Roddy Piper headlined the WWF's King of the Ring pay-per-view. According to reader Marv Costello, that belies the federation's "new generation" promotional tactics.

YEAH, THAT'S NEW

I'm a WWF fan and have been since the days of Bruno Sammartino and Pedro Morales, but I wish they'd stop referring to the "new generation." After all, its most recent pay-per-view was headlined by a bout between those newcomers Roddy Piper

and Jerry Lawler. Both are contemporaries of Hulk Hogan, who Titan Tower now denigrates in promotional spots.

The WWF doesn't need to stoop so low. It thrived long before Hogan arrived, and will continue to do so now that he's gone. Hogan and Andre the Giant (also now part of the "old generation," according to the promos) gave WWF fans thrills and excitement for many years. To mock them is pointless at best, mean-spirited at worst.

Hogan's in WCW, guys. Learn to live with it and clean up your own backyard.

MARV COSTELLO
Beacon, NY

WCW GOING GLOBAL?

I would like to see a joint WCW and Global Wrestling Federation card. WCW is better than the circus WWF, and Global is a great federation.

Now that Ric Flair has unified WCW's World and International belts, maybe a bout between Flair and GWF champ Rod Price could raise the pay-per-view rates to an all-time high. Sting vs. Chris Adams would be a good match, and Steve Austin vs. Scott Putski would rate five stars.

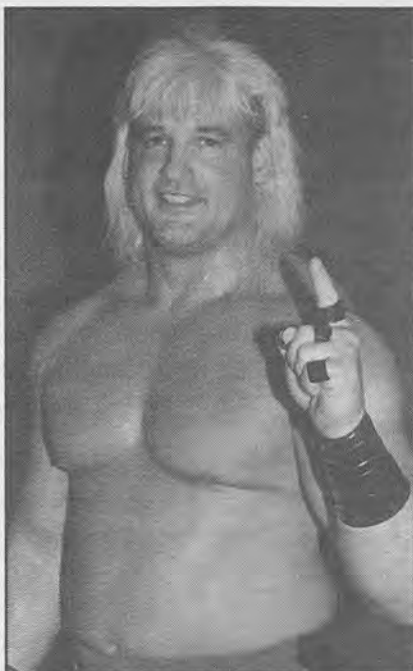
WCW and GWF should think about it.

ROBBIE AGNEW
Rumford, RI

JACK ON TRACK

I've watched Cactus Jack for years, and was happy to see him and Kevin Sullivan win the WCW World tag team title. He has earned it. No wrestler is more intense or maniacal than Cactus. Torture has never bothered him.

Maybe what he has is too crazy to be called courage. But after all he's suffered at the hands of Big Van Vader, it's great to see the adjective "champion" attached to



Former Global champion Rod Price would get a shot at the WCW World title if reader Robbie Agnew had his way. He'd like to see the two federations hold a joint pay-per-view card.

his name. May it continue for a long time to come!

J. GERALD JOHNSTON
Milledgeville, GA

WRESTLE, TED—PLEASE!

It's now been nearly a year since Ted DiBiase was sidelined due to a severe neck injury he suffered in Japan. I hope he can return to wrestling soon, and it's not because I like the "Million-Dollar Man." To be honest, I can't stand him, and haven't for years.

Since he can't compete, he's concentrated on managing, with chilling results. What he did to poor Nikolai Volkoff, a man who fell on hard times, borders on tragedy. Now DiBiase has brought Bam Bam Bigelow and Luna Vachon into his camp, and is doing all he can to make Lex Luger a rulebreaker again.

(Continued on page 56)



Ted DiBiase can't return to competition soon enough for reader Maureen Martin. She's not a fan of his wrestling, but wants to see the "Million-Dollar Man" out of managing as soon as possible.

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By Stu Saks

When former WWF World champion Bob Backlund made his comeback a couple of years ago, many people compared his efforts to those of another former heavy-weight champion—George Foreman. They were both about the same age and trying to regain long-lost glory after having been out of the sport for several years.

Foreman didn't win the title, but he did succeed in changing his image from that of a nasty, unapproachable, unmarketable bad man to that of a fatherly, cuddly, highly marketable superstar. He made fans, he made money, and he certainly didn't embarrass himself when he fought Evander Holyfield for the championship.

Backlund, too, had an image problem during his run as champion in the late-'70s and early-'80s: Basically, he was too dull to have one. He did keep himself in good shape, and while he never got back to championship form during the '90s, he was a decent mid-card wrestler. While the prevailing view is that just being able to earn a living in the sport should have been enough, there are now ugly signs that it was not.

After a recent loss to Bret Hart, Backlund slapped the champion and put him in a chicken wing that he refused to release for several minutes. Could Backlund be turning bad? If he did, it would leave Rick Steamboat alone as the only significant active wrestler to have been a fan favorite his entire career. It would also be a sad addendum to the comparison with Foreman.

One would be remembered from going from bad to good, the other from good to bad.

COMBINE *and* SAVE!

By taking advantage of our special combination offers, you can have all of the world's leading wrestling magazines delivered to your door and save up to 33% off the regular newsstand price!



COMBINE *and* SAVE!

ONE-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION

TWO-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION

Magazines				# of Issues	US/Can. Price	Foreign	# of Issues	US/Can. Price	Foreign
DISCOUNT COMBINATION OFFER (SAVE UP TO 25%!)									
<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	THE WRESTLER	12	<input type="checkbox"/> \$37.45	<input type="checkbox"/> \$56.65	24 24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$70.20	<input type="checkbox"/> \$108.60	
		INSIDE WRESTLING	12						
SUPER SAVER COMBINATION OFFER (SAVE UP TO 33%!)									
<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED	12	<input type="checkbox"/> \$57.60	<input type="checkbox"/> \$86.40	24 24 24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$102.45	<input type="checkbox"/> \$160.05	
		THE WRESTLER	12						
		INSIDE WRESTLING	12						

Please enter the combination subscription I have checked above. I have enclosed a check or money order for payment in full or included my credit card number to charge my purchase. (Pennsylvania residents, please add 6% sales tax).

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to LONDON PUBLISHING CO.)

☐ VISA # _____

☐ MasterCard # _____

Expiration Date: ____ / ____
MO / YR

Send To: **LONDON PUBLISHING CO.**
P.O. Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Name _____

Address _____

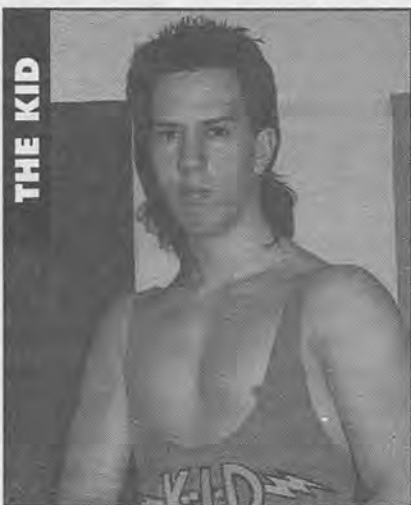
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

For orders outside the U.S., international money order in U.S. funds only. Foreign subscribers, add \$9.60 per 12 issues for air mail. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first issue.

NAMES MA

IT'S NOT JUST **Owen Hart** and **Jim Neidhart** who've been giving WWF World champion **Bret Hart** problems these days. The "Hitman" recently defended his belt against two unlikely challengers: **The Kid** and **Bob Backlund**.

Kid and Hart put on a spectacular aerial and technical show on *Monday Night Raw*. About 10 minutes into the match, Hart pinned Kid, but Kid's foot was on the ropes. Hart refused the win and insisted the match continue. It did and Kid dazzled the champ with a



THE KID

series of savate kicks before tiring and eventually submitting to the "sharpshooter."

Two nights later, Backlund thought he had Bret pinned with a small package. The referee said he didn't and as Backlund protested, Hart used a small package to pin him. Backlund refused to shake Bret's hand and instead applied his chicken wing. It took several officials to pry him off. Afterward, Backlund appeared very ashamed of what he'd done. I would be absolutely shocked if he became a rulebreaker.

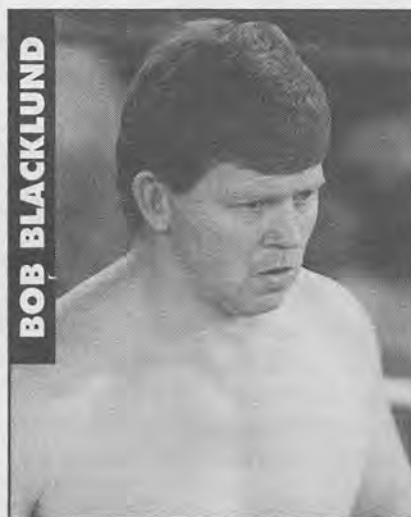
Trouble is brewing between **Lex**

Luger and **Tatanka**. The Native American thinks Luger sold out by signing with **Ted DiBiase**. Lex says he hasn't signed, but will take on Tatanka if necessary.

The "Million-Dollar Man's" stable does include an impostor **Undertaker**, **Bam Bam Bigelow** and **Luna Vachon**, and **Nikolai Volkoff**. Incidentally, I hear rumors that Vachon may hire Japanese star **Bull Nakano** to help her deal with WWF World Women's champion **Alundra Blayze**.

It appears **The Headshrinkers**, the WWF World tag team champs, won't have to worry about **The Quebecers** anymore. **Jacques** and **Pierre** came to blows during a match against **Samu** and **Fatu** in Montreal. Pierre actually prevented his partner from pinning Fatu; he wanted to dish out more punishment. While they argued, Fatu rolled up and pinned Jacques.

After the match, Pierre and **Johnny Polo** attacked Jacques. **Ray Rougeau** came to his brother's rescue, but Jacques had to be carried away on a stretcher.



BOB BACKLUND



JOHNNY POLO

There's quite a bit of trash-talking going on between **Jerry Lawler** and **Duke "The Dumpster" Droese**. That would be an interesting feud!

The much-hyped managerial debut of figure skater **Tonya Harding** finally took place in Vancouver, Washington. Harding didn't have a Washington state manager's license so she had to stay 10 feet away from the ring. She did hand **American Love Machine**, her protege for the night, a soda, which he threw in **Perro Aguayo's** face. Love Machine's team won the six-man tag team match.

"Sensuous" **Sherri Martel** is now officially managing **Ric Flair** in WCW and isn't shy about interfering. **Hulk Hogan** will have to deal with her if he's to get the upper hand in his feud with the "Nature Boy."

I'm now hearing that Hogan will team with **Sting** in a series of matches against **The Nasty Boys** this fall.

Paul Orndorff and **Paul Roma** are quickly becoming a top tag team in WCW.

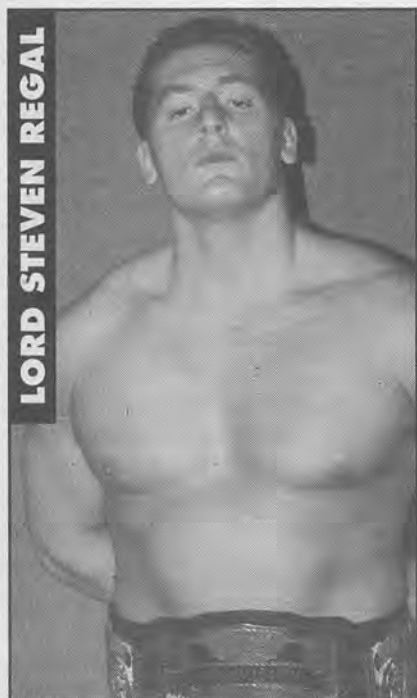
For all you doubters of **Lord**

KIN' NEWS

By Bill Apter

Steven Regal, you have to give him credit for regaining the WCW TV title from **Larry Zbyszko** at Clash of the Champions XXVII.

I like the new **Dustin Rhodes-Arn Anderson** pairing, but I hear there are already problems in that camp. If a recent match against **Brian Pillman** in Columbia, South Carolina, is any indication, "The Enforcer" is thinking about returning to rulebreaking. He held Pillman's tights during the pinfall.



I have a hunch **Dusty Rhodes** will help Dustin in his feud with **Bunkhouse Buck** and **Terry Funk** at some point. He despises Terry and Buck.

Funk is now teaming regularly with his brother **Dory** again. They've wrestled together in both Smoky Mountain, where they're feuding with the **Armstrong** family, and ECW, where they're feuding with **Public Enemy**.

Jim Cornette is putting together a

"Federation Of International Thugs And Eliminators" in SMW. He wants the Funks to head his Amarillo, Texas, branch.

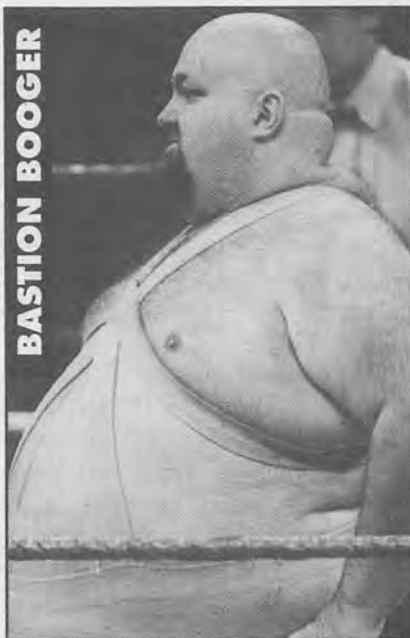
Tammy Fytch is trying wrestling again. She joined **Chris Candido** and **Brian Lee** in several six-man matches against **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** and **Bambi**. The results were pretty predictable; Tammy is no wrestler!

Tracey Smothers is turning his feud with **Bruiser Bedlam** around. After losing several coal miner's glove matches, Smothers beat Bedlam in four consecutive anything-goes dock fights.

Wolfie D and **J.C. Ice** are not only USWA tag team champions, but also W*ING tag champs. They beat **The Masters of the Orient** in a tournament in Memphis.



Sid Vicious, who hails from West Memphis, Arkansas, just resurfaced in Memphis. He attacked Lawler in a tag team match. As of press time, he wouldn't say whether he'd be wrestling there full-time.



The amazing tale of ECW TV champ **Mikey Whipwreck** continues. The 187-pound Buffalo native, who has almost no offensive moves in his "repertoire," has now beaten **Mr. Hughes**, **Kevin Sullivan**, **The Rockin' Rebel**, **Johnny Grunge**, and **Pit Bull Psycho Mike**, all by disqualification.

Earthquake is now wrestling for West Coast Championship Wrestling ... **Bastion Booger** is back in his native Michigan, competing in Motor City Wrestling ... Two **Doinks** recently wrestled as a tag team on a Century Wrestling Alliance card. They beat **Knuckles Nelson** and **Suicide Samson**.

Finally, tragedy has once again struck the wrestling world. **Joey Marella**, a WWF referee and the son of **Gorilla Monsoon**, was killed in a car accident in Burlington County, New Jersey, on July 4. He was 30. I'd like to extend my deepest sympathies to his entire family. □

ON THE ROAD

With Chris Bernucca

IT IS TIME for Sting to leave WCW. The clincher is a series of events that have clouded his future in the federation he once ruled came on June 23 in Charleston, South Carolina, at Clash of the Champions XXVII. Sting, holding the dubious International title, lost to WCW World champion Ric Flair in a unification match.

The bout was marred by the outside interference of Sherri Martel and yet another grandstanding appearance by Hulk Hogan, but the fans at the Charleston Coliseum didn't seem to mind. In fact, all anyone could talk about was that Flair and Hogan were slated to wrestle for the title in several weeks at Bash at the Beach in Orlando, Florida.

WCW was once Sting's federation. Flair had left in a contract dispute in 1991, joining Hogan in the WWF. While the two spent much of their time there ducking each other, Sting established his greatness in WCW, beating Lex Luger for his second federation title and becoming the best wrestler in the world.

But Flair's return and Hogan's entrance have relegated Sting to third banana, a tough spot when you're in a sport that usually has just two competitors vying for the top prize. *The hell with Sting*, the fans seemed to be saying. *We've got Flair against Hogan*.

That's what the federation seems to be saying as well, and you can't really blame them. In Flair vs. Hogan, WCW has a gold mine on its hands. Don't be surprised if these two men headline the next three or four pay-per-view events. They are the two biggest draws in the sport, and WCW has both of them.

While Flair and Hogan put everyone from Big Van Vader to Bunkhouse Buck on the back burner, it is especially demoralizing for Sting. He's had repeated attempts at regaining the World title thwarted by bureaucracy and big-mouthing.

Take Flair, for example. He angled his way into the title picture by beating a lame Barry Windham last summer for the same belt Sting brought to the ring in Charleston. That title (then known as the NWA belt) eventually was not recognized by this family of magazines, but it apparently carried more weight around the

waist of Flair than anyone else.

But at least you could argue that Flair had wrestled his way into contender status. The same cannot be said of Hogan, who once again has weaseled his way into a title shot without wrestling anyone else. Hogan came to the Charleston Coliseum with manager Jimmy Hart in a limousine, saying he hoped to wrestle

the winner of the Sting-Flair match. Those hopes were greatly enhanced when he stormed the ring under the guise of coming to the aid of Sting, his "friend."

Some friend. Before the night was over, Hogan had signed to face Flair, squelching any possibility of Sting receiving a rematch he certainly deserved.

Ask Bret Hart about Hogan's "friendship." He also received the "aid" of Hogan following his title loss to



Sting has been WCW's most consistently popular wrestler since winning his first World title in 1990. Now it appears Ric Flair and Hulk Hogan have left him on the outside looking in.

Yokozuna at WrestleMania IX last year. Two minutes later, Hogan was champion. Despite being thoroughly entitled to a rematch, Hart was bumped from the title picture for several months.

Hart lucked out when Yokozuna won a rematch with Hogan, sending the "Hulkster" into semi-retirement. Sting will have no such luck. Regardless of who wins at Bash at the Beach, there will be a rematch. If Flair and Hogan split their first two bouts, there will certainly be a third showdown, taking us to Starrcade at year's end. My, how time flies when you're getting screwed.

Sting can't afford to wait a year for Hogan and Flair to

(Continued on page 60)

GET ALL THE NEWS—FAST & FIRST!
SUBSCRIBE TODAY TO THE NEW...

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY

WE'VE CUT THE PRICE,
BUT NOT THE INFORMATION!

WOW!
SAVE UP TO
50%!

STILL PACKED WITH INFORMATION!

Each weekly issue still contains the latest news and gossip, a calendar of upcoming cards, ratings, transactions, and a comprehensive compilation of match results! You get all this—each and every week!—in a format that keeps you on top of today's wrestling news today!

FIRST WITH THE NEWS!

New efforts have been made to get *PWI Weekly* to you earlier than ever so all the news is as fresh as can be. With the exception of holidays, *PWI Weekly* will be placed in the U.S. mail for first-class delivery each Wednesday morning, so you'll be the first to know about the title changes, the big match signings, the major controversies, and the triumphs and tragedies that occurred throughout the wrestling world that previous week.

STILL NOT SURE?

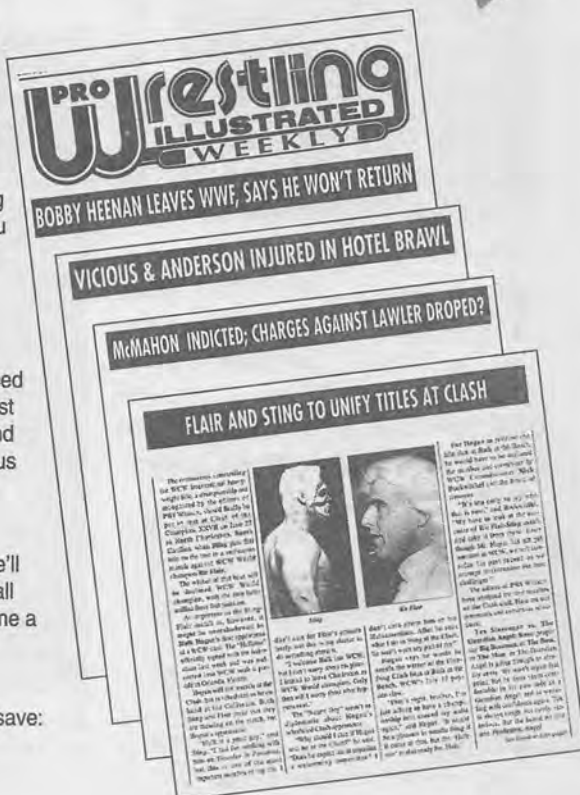
Want to try a sample issue of *PWI Weekly*? No problem! Just send us \$1.95 and we'll send you a copy of *PWI Weekly* hot off the press! We're certain that once you see all the news, features, and information packed into our newsletter, you'll want to become a subscriber. (Sorry, no credit cards accepted for single-issue orders.)

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

PWI Weekly is cover-priced at \$1.95 per issue, and we offer you three big ways to save:

- 17 weekly issues for just \$19.99, a 40% savings off the cover price
- 34 weekly issues for just \$34.99, a 45% savings off the cover price
- 52 weekly issues for just \$49.99, a 50% savings off the cover price

So many of you have written to tell us that you'd love to subscribe to *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly*, but that it was a bit too costly. Well, we've responded to your input, changed the format just a bit, and have cut the price by just about a third!



Send to:
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 910
Fort Washington, PA 19034

- ☐ NEW
☐ RENEWAL

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order
(enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA

☐ MasterCard

Card number: _____

Expiration date: ____/____/____
MO/YR

(Pennsylvania residents add 6% sales tax)

YES! I want to be the first with all the news! Please send me a subscription to *PWI Weekly* as follows:

- ☐ 17 issues for just \$19.99, a 40% savings!
- ☐ 34 issues for just \$34.99, a 45% savings!
- ☐ 52 issues for just \$49.99, a 50% savings!
- ☐ I'd like to see a sample copy before I subscribe.
Enclosed please find a check or money order for \$1.95

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ APT _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Offer good in U.S. and Canada only. Foreign airmail orders: \$2.65 for single issue; \$32.74 for 17 issues; \$60.49 for 34 issues; \$88.99 for 52 issues. International money orders in U.S. funds only.

2581/07-94

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by David Rosenbaum

FOR OVER A decade, his name and the WWF were linked like Jordan and the Bulls, Gretzky and the Oilers, Mantle and the Yankees, Montana and the 49ers. Hulk Hogan and the WWF simultaneously rose to power.

So how do Hogan's new peers in WCW feel when he walks into the room? Do they feel like they're speaking with the enemy?

Surprisingly, the answer is no.

"Hulk Hogan is one of the most popular wrestlers in history," Sting said. "I can't dispute that. We've all heard a lot of things about him, positive and negative, and I'm sure a lot of it is true, but so far he's been nothing but a friend. I enjoyed working with him on *Thunder In Paradise* and I enjoy working with him in WCW."

Dustin Rhodes grew up watching his father wrestle in the NWA. He is a WCW man through and through (although both he and Dusty had a brief stint in the WWF), but still finds a way to respect Hogan.

"How can you not respect him?" Dustin asked. "He started as nothing and became one of the most popular wrestlers in history. Sure,

I never was one of his biggest fans, but that's because I never really had any favorites, except for my dad. By the time Hogan came along, I was already training to become a pro wrestler."

Down the hallway in the rulebreakers' dressing room, you'll find different, less charitable opinions about Hogan. No surprise there. But almost everyone agrees

ing Hogan means immortality. Losing to him means taking your place in a long line of men who suffered that fate.

"It's a no-lose situation," said Steve Austin. "Everybody expects Hogan to win, and when he loses, it's a big deal. I think he has a weakness. Know what that is? He can't wrestle. He has no moves."

That's not fair, or true. Hogan



Hogan gave Sting a big break by inviting him to appear on *Thunder In Paradise*. Sting says he's enjoyed being associated with the "Hulkster"—first on TV, and now in WCW.

the "Hulkster" has had a tremendous impact on the sport.

"I'm not sure whether it's good or bad, but it's there," said Harley Race. "Hogan could never wrestle worth a dime, but the people liked him for some reason. Now he's in a place where he's going to have to show a little more skill, so let's see what happens. Let's see what happens when he runs into my man Vader. He's wrestled big men before, but never a big man like Vader."

Nobody's intimidated by Hogan. The rulebreakers are lining up to take a crack at him. After all, beat-

has shown surprising ability during his few trips to Japan. We can't blame him for capitalizing on his strength, which is, of course, his strength.

That's why Vader vs. Hogan could be the Match of the Century. I hope WCW has it on the drawing board.

Two months ago, I wrote that WCW has its golden opportunity to go over the top and become the most popular and powerful wrestling organization in North America. So far, it hasn't blown its
(Continued on page 58)

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW A THING OR TWO ABOUT WRESTLING...

Here is your chance to prove it. Take the **PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED CHALLENGE** and go head to head with the editors of PWI in the trivia match of your life. If you can answer seven consecutive questions correctly—without getting pinned—you can earn the title "Undisputed Wrestling Trivia Champ" and win \$250 or a **PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED** baseball cap.

CALL NOW
 **1-900-288-7526**
 **0891 299 760**

\$1.49 per minute. Kids, get your parents' permission.



This service is available on both rotary-dialed and touch-tone phones.

 **NOW AVAILABLE
IN THE U.K.** 

**WIN
\$100
CASH PRIZE**

PLUS: Each month, five runners-up will receive a free **PWI** baseball cap.



ALL-NEW QUESTIONS

If you can answer the following questions, you could be the next \$250 winner!

— ACTUAL QUESTIONS —

Hulk Hogan hails from which California beach community?

- 1) Malibu
- 2) Pacific Heights
- 3) Venice Beach
- 4) Newport Beach

At what University did Ron Simmons play football?

- 1) Notre Dame
- 2) Florida State University
- 3) Michigan State University
- 4) Oglethorpe University

True or False: Giant Gonzales competed in the 1984 Olympics as a member of Argentina's water polo team

- 1) True
- 2) False

The Undertaker was once tag team partners with...

- 1) Lou Albano
- 2) Sergeant Slaughter
- 3) Rick Steiner
- 4) None of the above

How did you do? If you're up for the challenge and want to put your wrestling knowledge to work, call now and go for the \$250!

WRESTLING CHALLENGE RULES & REGULATIONS

Call as often as you like. The contest begins May 1, 1994, and runs through August 31, 1994. There is no age restriction to participate. The charge for each call is \$1.49 per minute. The contest is sponsored by Advanced Telecom Services and London Publishing Co. in connection with Pro Wrestling Illustrated. No purchase necessary to participate. Void in MN, NJ, LA, GA, and where prohibited by law. All unclaimed prizes will be awarded via second-chance drawing. The odds of winning are dependent on the number of entries. Complete rules and mail-in entries are available by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to PWI TRIVIA, P.O. Box 625, Devon, PA 19333. To win, answer seven consecutive trivia questions correctly and you automatically qualify for the monthly drawing of one \$250 winner. From May 1, 1994, until August 31, 1994, a total of 18 PWI caps (retail value \$7 each) will be awarded. London Publishing Co. will select the winners. No substitutions allowed.

the Insider

by Eddie Ellner

(The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.)

NEXT DOOR IN *The Wrestler*, I report about the rejuvenation of Texas wrestling. After nearly half a decade in the dumps, there is a renewed attitude among the wrestlers in the Southwest that has brought hopes of making the Lone Star State a wrestling capital once again. It's not earthshattering news; no title changes, new trends, or feats of superhuman strength. Just a good old-fashioned human interest, phoenix-rising-from-the-ashes kind of piece.

For me, the best part was hanging with The Freebirds for a weekend. No renaissance to report there—Hayes, Gordy, and Garvin remain as reliably erratic as the tides. You can hardly write a story about Texas wrestling without mentioning a name I vowed never to mention in this column again. But that was a reactionary vow, a promise made in anger, the gesture of a small child. Mostly I was angry with you, exasperated by your unwillingness to face reality.

I was thinking as I wrote the story, interviewing fans, promoters, and wrestlers, if we—that is, you and I—have learned anything about what happened down here in the last 10 years. Did the almost incomprehensible tragedy that occurred in Texas change us in any positive



The Von Erichs (from left, Mike, Kevin, and Kerry) were like anyone else, Ellner says, subject to the same human foibles that affect us all. Their saga provides a lesson to be learned by those who venerate heroes.

way? Or, like The Freebirds, do we remain stuck on the same dumb page?

It was almost a decade ago I accompanied Bill Apter to Boston, where the Von Erichs were making their initial East Coast appearance. I was searching for an editorial identity, an attitude that would distinguish me from my colleagues.

I saw the trip as a real opportunity, and not just because the magazine was paying for it. It was the first time I'd ever meet a wrestler the stature of a Von Erich. Back in '84, the family ruled the roost. Kerry had defeated Ric Flair for the NWA World title in front of 43,000 fans. World Class was the first interna-

(Continued on page 61)

A COLLECTOR'S EXTRAVAGANZA!



March 1989

Every wrestling fan knows that *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* is the leading wrestling magazine in the world today, and no issues of *PWI* are more coveted than our incredible special issues. For a limited time only, you can complete your collection of these historic color-packed editions for only \$5 per copy! Supplies are very limited, so order today!



August 1992

DECEMBER 1987 Our incredible 100-page 100th issue featuring the 10 most influential wrestlers of the *PWI* years, an achievement awards retrospective, and the *PWI* years in review.

SEPTEMBER 1988 An 80-page edition celebrating the supercards of 1988: WrestleMania IV, the Jim Crockett Sr. Memorial Cup tag team tournament, AWA's Rage in the Cage, and the first-ever Clash of the Champions.

MARCH 1989 A 100-page year-end extravaganza including: "1988—The Year In Wrestling," Achievement '88 Awards, "Unofficial Official" Awards for 1988, and predictions for 1989.

SEPTEMBER 1989 A sensational 100-page 10th anniversary spectacular including: 12 wrestlers who made a difference, an anniversary book of lists, a special "Superstats" section, and a look back to our first issue.

MARCH 1991 A 100-page year-end extravaganza including: "1990—The Year In Wrestling," Achievement '90 Awards, "Unofficial Official" Awards for 1990, and predictions for 1991.

MARCH 1992 A 100-page year-end extravaganza including: "1991—The Year In Wrestling," Achievement '91 Awards, "Unofficial Official" Awards for 1991, and predictions for 1992.

AUGUST 1992 All slick, all color! This 88-page special includes extensive coverage of WrestleMania VIII, plus a bonus photo section detailing the career of Hulk Hogan in photos!

MARCH 1993 A 100-page all-slick, all-color edition including: "1992—The Year In Wrestling," Achievement '92 Awards, "Unofficial Official" Awards for 1992, and predictions for 1993.

AUGUST 1993 An 88-page edition celebrating the supercards of 1993: WrestleMania IX and WCW's first-ever card in Manhattan. Plus: Results of the first-ever "PWI Poll" of wrestling's insiders!

MARCH 1994 A 100-page year-end extravaganza including: "1993—The Year In Wrestling," Achievement '93 Awards, "Unofficial Official" Awards for 1993, and predictions for 1994.

ONLY \$5 EACH!

- ☐ DECEMBER 1987
- ☐ SEPTEMBER 1988
- ☐ MARCH 1989
- ☐ SEPTEMBER 1989
- ☐ MARCH 1991
- ☐ MARCH 1992
- ☐ AUGUST 1992
- ☐ MARCH 1993
- ☐ AUGUST 1993
- ☐ MARCH 1994

For all orders outside the U.S. and Canada, you must add \$1 for every back issue to be delivered by ground and \$2 for every back issue to be delivered by airmail. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. BOX 956
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

Please send me the special editions of **PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED** I've checked. I am enclosing \$_____ as payment in full.
In case of sellout, indicate substitute choice:_____

PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

ON Assignment

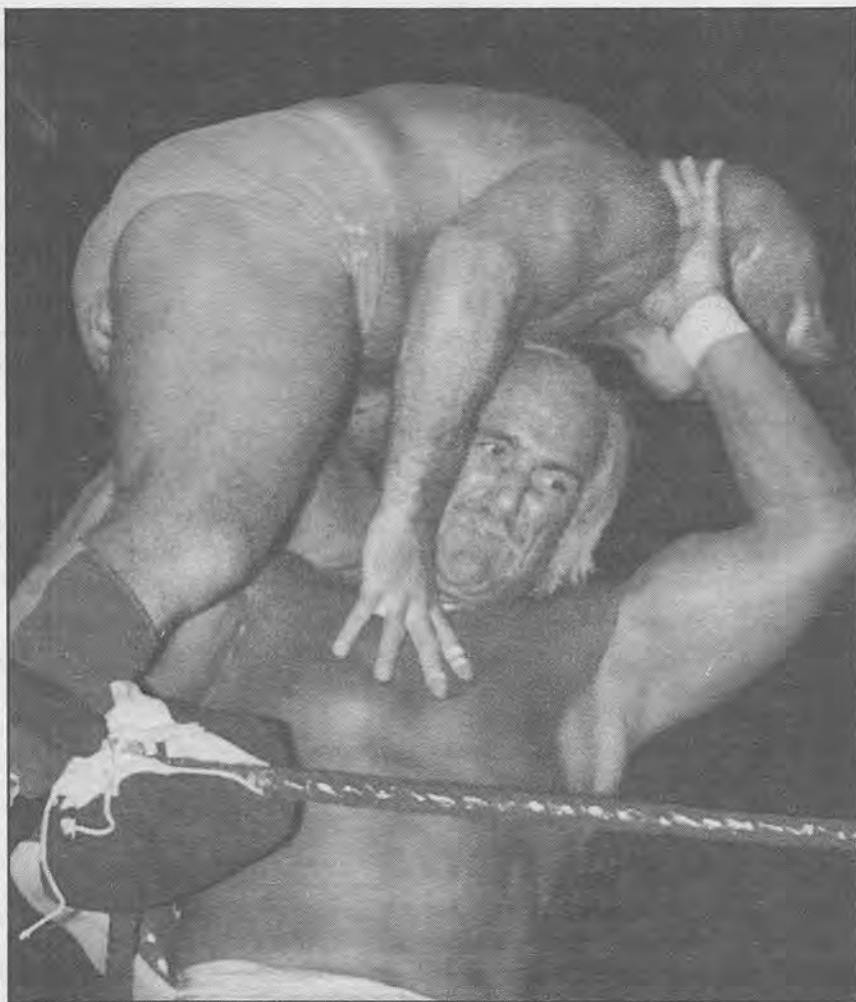
By Liz Hunter

TRUTH IN ADVERTISING? WCW should be commended for acknowledging Hulk Hogan's past as a five-time WWF World champion, especially considering that the WWF was so vague in their references to Ric Flair's past when the "Nature Boy" went to the WWF three years ago. But I do get a little annoyed at their ambiguous mentions of the past encounters between the two superstars.

Excuse me? What happened to the celebrated WWF series between the two champions in '91 and '92? Did I dream those battles Flair and Hogan have already had? Of course I didn't. But the WCW marketing department did. They wished it didn't happen. While they haven't come right out and said that this is the first time these men have ever wrestled one another, they certainly don't go out of their way to leave you with the correct information.

This is an interesting juxtaposition. Usually it's the WWF that manipulates history, transposing or eliminating bits of wrestling events to suit its commercial purposes. Now that WCW is poised to claim the mantle of world's leading wrestling federation, it appears ready to tinker with the past.

The way I see it, what harm can come from referring back to the original series? Did Don King ignore the first two Ali-Frazier fights when promoting the "Thrilla In Manila"? Of course not. The first two fights served to whet the public's appetite for the third. Would fans not bother with Hogan vs. Flair in WCW, knowing that they already wrestled in the



If WCW had its way, we wouldn't know that Hulk Hogan and Ric Flair had their initial encounters in the WWF. In fact, Flair met Hogan many times when both were in the WWF; the results were inconclusive.

WWF? Heavens, no.

"I don't see what the fuss is all about," said Flair before Bash at the Beach. "In a way, it is the first time me and Hogan will wrestle. After all, this is my territory, where I'm the man. In the WWF, Hogan got so many breaks it was like taking on him and two dozen of others every time we met. Here it'll be just me and him, man against man."

"Those other matches were

ancient history, sister," Hogan agreed. Being able to pick up a phone and speak directly to Hulk Hogan is a novelty that will take some getting used to. It required divine bureaucratic intervention to get even a "no comment" from him in the WWF.

"I've haven't been this fired up about wrestling since I broke in as a rookie," he said. "Those old matches don't count. A lot of

(Continued on page 62)

THE BIGGEST STARS! THE GREATEST MATCHES! THE HOTTEST TAPES! YOU GOTTA OWN 'EM!

Experience the best in wrestling—right in your own home!—
with this sensational collection of superstar videos at bargain prices!

MADUSA'S CHAMPIONSHIP WORKOUT

Are you FIT—Feminine, Intelligent, and Tough? If so, Madusa Miceli's fitness video is for you! Based on the training methods used by professional kickboxers and martial artists, this tape provides you with a total-body aerobic workout that can't be beat! You'll gain confidence, improve coordination, tone up hips and thighs, and relieve stress. What are you waiting for?! Approx. 65 minutes. \$9.95.

RICK RUDE: RAW!

The "Ravishing One" is highlighted in this spectacular program, beginning with Rude's return to WCW at Halloween Havoc '91 and showcasing such major events as his Clash of the Champions XVII battle with Sting, his SuperBrawl II and Beach Blast '92 wars with Rick Steamboat, his Halloween Havoc '92 battle with Masa Chono, and his King of Cable tournament final versus Sting. Approx. 30 minutes. \$12.95.

STING: DEADLY VENOM (pictured)

Packed with highlights of the "Stinger's" greatest moments! See his Great American Bash '91 chain match with Nikita Koloff, his SuperBrawl II WCW World title victory over Lex Luger, his amazing Beach Blast '92 brawl with Cactus Jack, grueling battles with Big Van Vader at SuperBrawl III and Starrcade '92, the Halloween Havoc '92 pole match with Jake Roberts, War Games action, and more! Approx. 30 minutes. \$12.95.

THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR (pictured)

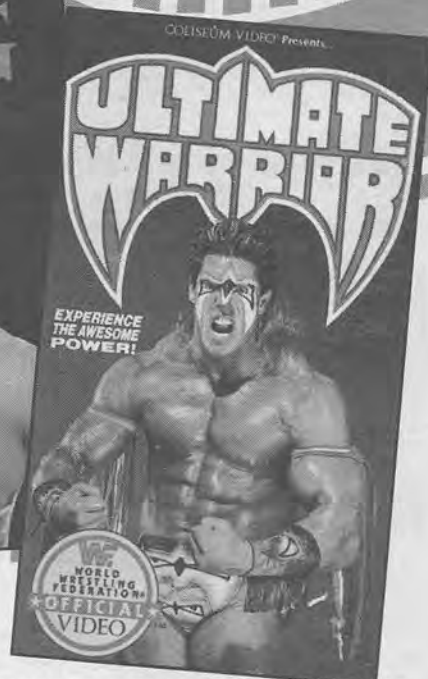
Experience the awesome power of The Ultimate Warrior as he battles Papa Shango, Skinner, and Brian Knobs! Watch him team with The Undertaker to take on Shango and Berzerker! And no Warrior tape would be complete without his stirring WWF World title victory over Hulk Hogan at WrestleMania VI—voted 1990 Match of the Year by *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* readers! Approx. 60 minutes. \$12.95

WRESTLEMANIA'S GREATEST MATCHES

WrestleMania is the premier event on the pay-per-view calendar, and Volume II of the official WrestleMania series includes some absolutely stunning action: Hulk Hogan vs. Randy Savage from WrestleMania V, Brutus Beefcake vs. Curt Hennig from WrestleMania VI, The Nasty Boys vs. The Hart Foundation from WrestleMania VII, and Randy Savage vs. Ric Flair from WrestleMania VIII. Approx. 60 minutes. \$12.95.

WWF WRESTLING'S HOTTEST MATCHES

Your VCR will be smoking after these action-packed bouts: Randy Savage vs. Irwin R. Schyster, "British Bulldog" Davey Boy Smith (seconded by Bret Hart) vs. "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig (managed by John Tolos), The Mountie & The Nasty Boys vs. Roddy Piper & The Bushwhackers, and Bret Hart vs. Irwin R. Schyster! Wrestling action doesn't get any wilder—or hotter!—than this! Approx. 60 minutes. \$12.95.



YES, I would like to order the video(s) I have indicated below. I have enclosed a check or money order made payable to London Publishing, or provided my credit card information to charge my purchase.

Name _____

Address _____ Apt.# _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing)

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

CARD # _____

Expiration Date: ____/____/____
MO / YR

Signature: _____

TITLE	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL
MADUSA'S WORKOUT		\$ 9.95	
RICK RUDE: RAW!		\$12.95	
STING: DEADLY VENOM		\$12.95	
THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR		\$12.95	
WRESTLEMANIA MATCHES		\$12.95	
WWF HOTTEST MATCHES		\$12.95	

SUBTOTAL: _____

PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTS ADD 6% SALES TAX: _____

\$3 PER VIDEO SHIPPING & HANDLING IN U.S./CANADA: _____

\$5 PER VIDEO SHIPPING AND HANDLING OUTSIDE U.S./CANADA: _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

SEND TO:

LONDON PUBLISHING Co.
Box 956
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery. International money orders in U.S. funds only. All videos are VHS and NTSC system compatible only. PAL systems are not compatible. All tapes carry a 100% money back guarantee against defects only. If tape is defective, please return it with a note specifying the defect.

INSIDE WRESTLING CAPSULE PROFILE ²²⁰

JOHNNY B. BADD

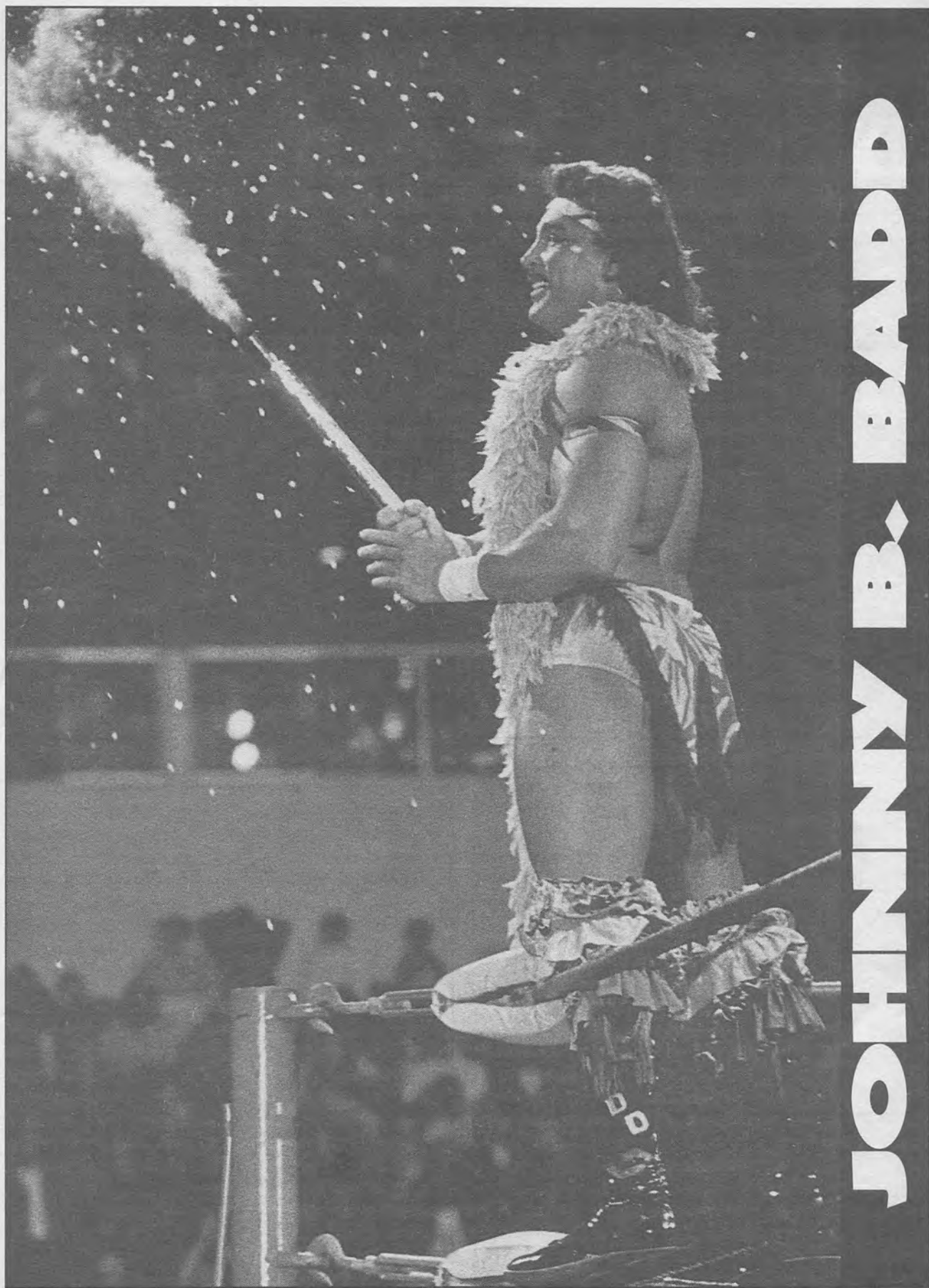
IT'S EASY TO be fooled by Johnny B. Badd's flamboyance. He delights in his "prettiness," but this former boxer can be as tough as anyone on WCW's roster ("Sure I've got style, but don't forget—I have substance, too") ... Is perhaps the best wrestler never to have won any WCW title, though he's come close a few times ("Knock on the door long enough, and eventually you'll get in!") ... If Badd seems somewhat reminiscent of Little Richard, it makes sense; Badd idolized his fellow Macon, Georgia, resident ... The 6', 245-pound Badd even calls his favorite move—a boxing-like left hook—the "tutti frutti," and also has a superb top-rope sunset flip ... Was a five-time state champion in boxing, and once even defeated future pro heavyweight contender Razor Ruddock ... Retired from boxing in 1986 ("Didn't want to endanger my pretty face any longer") ... A longtime wrestling fan, he decided to learn more about the sport, and was trained by Boris Malenko in Florida ... After a brief stay on the independent circuit, he signed with WCW in 1991 ... There, he was initially managed by Teddy Long, and began feuding with 400-pound rapper P.N. News at Clash of the Champions XV in Knoxville, Tennessee ("The man was a heavy-weight in name only!") ... Became renowned—or notorious—for putting a pair of plastic lips on a pinned opponent's cheek ... Was voted 1991 Rookie of the Year by *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* readers ("It's always good when people recognize quality, isn't it?") ... In 1992, Badd feuded with Brian Pillman after "Flyin' Brian" punched him during an interview on TV ("Talk about defensive interfer-



Johnny B. Badd is colorful and flamboyant, but when it comes to wrestling, he's all business. He came close to taking the U.S. title from Steve Austin at a recent Clash of the Champions.

ence") ... Regularly visits children in hospitals and supports an array of charitable efforts ("I want to give something back that I got as a kid. That's more important than the money or anything else") ... Spent much of 1993 in a feud with Maxx Payne ... It began when Payne stole his "Badd blaster" (which normally is filled with confetti), fired it at Badd, and temporarily burned his face ("I was no longer pretty. I was ashamed—and angry!") ... Had to wear a mask until the face was healed ... Gained revenge by beating Payne in several

grudge matches, and soon they eventually became uneasy tag team partners ("Maxx won't admit it, but he changed. I have to respect him for that") ... Was on the verge of winning the World title from Ric Flair on WCW's European tour, but the "Nature Boy" rallied to win ... Thought he had beaten Steve Austin at Clash of the Champions XXVII, but the U.S. champ was awarded the decision several days later ("That's okay. He's only a temporary champion") ... Expects to win a title belt soon ("It's gonna look soooooo pretty around my waist!") □



JOHNNY B. BADD

Where Are They NOW

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



RON SIMMONS

The former WCW World champion is currently taking a break from the sport, but insists he will return soon. "No one showed me any respect after I lost the title," he says. "Other ex-champions get plenty of title shots, but not me! That wasn't right."

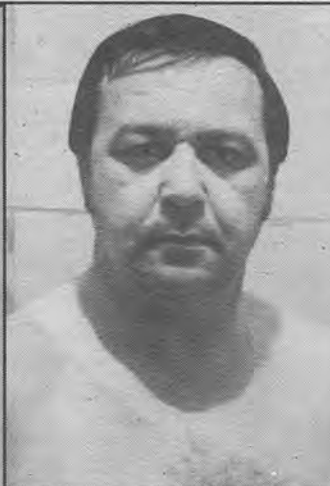
Simmons, a former co-holder of the WCW World tag title with Butch Reed in Doom, is training in Atlanta. "When I come back," he says, "somebody's gonna pay for the way I was treated!"



OTTO WANZ

The Graz, Austria, native pulled off one of wrestling's greatest upsets when he beat Nick Bockwinkel for the AWA World title in August 1982. Bockwinkel regained the title less than two months later. Wanz is now back in his homeland, where he trains wrestlers and

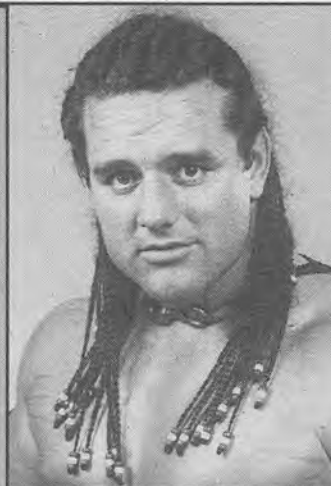
still occasionally competes. "I'm enjoy being semi-retired," he says, "but I don't think I could ever leave wrestling. It's in my blood. Now I get to help out some of the young guys."



LOUIE TILLET

Tillet won numerous titles in the South and California during the 1960s and '70s, including the Texas junior heavy-weight belt and the Americas tag team title with Dennis Stamp. Tillet still keeps up with the latest wrestling news, though he

spends most of his time at the restaurant he owns outside Charlotte. "Running a restaurant takes a lot of work," he says, "but it's something I hoped I would get to do once I retired from the ring."



DAVEY BOY SMITH

The "British Bulldog," brother-in-law of Bret and Owen Hart, has had successful stints in WCW and the WWF. Smith is now back in his native England, where he is competing from time to time in independents. However,

he will likely wrestle on the WWF's upcoming European tour. "I'm a bit put off by the trouble Owen Hart and Jim Neidhart have been causing Bret," he says.

AVAILABLE NOW!

A VERY SPECIAL SELECTION OF PREMIUM BACK ISSUES!



Over the past few years, these special issues of *The Wrestler* and *Inside Wrestling* have become coveted by collectors the world over. Now, in limited quantities, they are available to you for the low price of just \$5 each! Be sure to complete your collection today!



JANUARY 1986 WRESTLER includes a dynamic four-page full-color section celebrating the 10 greatest wrestlers of the *Wrestler* years. Featured in color: Bruno Sammartino, Hulk Hogan, Ric Flair, and Dusty Rhodes.

MARCH 1993 WRESTLER features a full-color 12-page section, "1992: The Year In Pictures," that details all the most important events, both in and out of the ring, of that remarkable year in the mat sport.

MARCH 1994 WRESTLER features the full-color 12-page section, "1993: The Year In Pictures," detailing all the most important happenings, both in and out of the ring, of those notable 12 months in the mat sport.

MARCH 1990 INSIDE WRESTLING looks back at the decade of the '80s with a dazzling eight-page full-color section and a year-by-year review of the most significant events in the sport. Must reading for all fans!

JANUARY 1993 INSIDE WRESTLING presents a stunning 12-page bonus full-color section covering the WWF's SummerSlam '92 extravaganza and Clash of the Champions XX, which celebrated 20 years of wrestling on TBS.

JANUARY 1994 INSIDE WRESTLING offered the most extensive coverage of SummerSlam '93 and Fall Brawl anywhere: seven pages of analysis plus two pages of full-color highlights from each card!

ONLY \$5 EACH!

- ☐ JANUARY 1986
WRESTLER
- ☐ MARCH 1993
WRESTLER
- ☐ MARCH 1994
WRESTLER
- ☐ MARCH 1990
INSIDE WRESTLING
- ☐ JANUARY 1993
INSIDE WRESTLING
- ☐ JANUARY 1994
INSIDE WRESTLING

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. BOX 956
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

Please send me the special editions of WRESTLER and INSIDE WRESTLING. I've checked.
I am enclosing \$_____ as payment in full.
In case of sellout, indicate substitute choice: _____

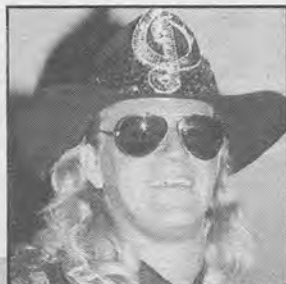
PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY

Name _____
Address _____ Apt. _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

For all orders outside the U.S. and Canada, you must add \$1.50 for every back issue to be delivered by ground and \$3.00 for every back issue to be delivered by airmail. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

NEWS FROM THE WR

MONTREAL, QUEBEC
BY JEAN MAROIS



JEFF JARRETT
VS.
DOINK THE CLOWN



The aspiring country music star met the WWF's zany jester in the latest chapter of this bizarre feud. Despite the deep hatred that has long existed between these two superstars, the match itself turned out to be quite scientific. Jarrett did spend some time chasing Dink, Doink's midget companion, around the ring. He caught him once and leveled him with a vicious forearm. For the most part, Doink did a good job controlling "Double-J" with a series of armbars, leglocks, and headlocks. The clown's luck ran out when Jarrett rolled him up near the ropes. The referee did not notice him holding on to the ropes as the three-count was being made.

OTHER BOUTS: The Kid pinned Kwang the Ninja ... The Bushwhackers beat The Executioners ... Lex Luger pinned Crush ... Yokozuna beat Typhoon ... WWF World tag team champions The Headshrinkers beat The Quebecers ... WWF World champion Bret Hart pinned Owen Hart.

PHILADELPHIA, PA
BY SCOTT RYDIA



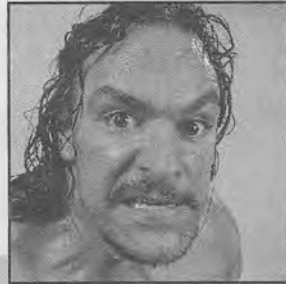
TOMMY CAIRO
VS.
THE SANDMAN



One of ECW's hottest feuds was taken to new heights (or depths) when Cairo and Sandman met in a Singapore-cane-on-a-pole match. A rattan cane was placed on a pole outside the ring. The first person to grab it could use it. Cairo was aided by Peaches, Sandman's estranged wife; Sandman was seconded by Woman. The match escalated into a bloody brawl. When it spilled outside the ring, Sandman grabbed a cane he had hidden under the ring and repeatedly smashed Cairo. Woman also got involved when Sandman handed her the stick. She twice whacked Peaches. The bout was declared a no-contest.

OTHER BOUTS: Tommy Dreamer pinned Hack Meyer ... Tasmaniac pinned Pit Bull Psycho Mike ... The Bruise Brothers beat Shane Douglas & Mr. Hughes ... Terry & Dory Funk Jr. beat ECW tag team champs Public Enemy by disqualification ... ECW TV champ Mikey Whipwreck beat The Rockin' Rebel by disqualification ... Sabu defeated Cactus Jack.

SAN JOSE, CA
BY GARY HOLOWAY



SABU
VS.
CHRIS CANDIDO

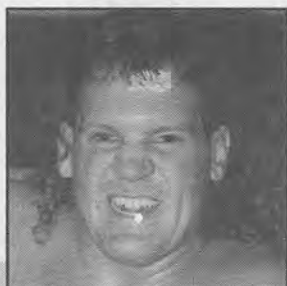


Two of wrestling's best young athletes clashed in a ladder match to determine the initial California Championship Wrestling champion. The bout featured suplexes and piledrivers by both. Candido pounded Sabu with the ladder, but Sabu retaliated. He slammed his opponent onto the timekeeper's table, then grabbed the ladder and leaped from the top rope toward Candido. Chris rolled out of the way and Sabu crashed into the table. Nevertheless, a few minutes later, he recovered and climbed the ladder to claim the belt. Unfortunately, the referee was distracted and Candido stole the belt from him. The referee declared Candido the champ.

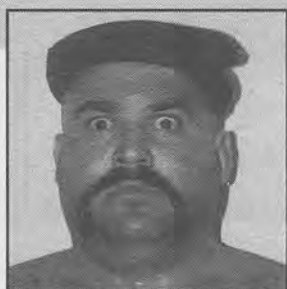
OTHER BOUTS: Frank Dalton defeated Matt Hyson ... Captain Oro defeated El Super Boy in a best-of-three-falls match ... Larry Ludden pinned Jason Redondo ... Robert Thompson beat Super Diablo ... Mike Modest pinned Mike Diamond ... Piloto Suicida beat Crazy Boy in a best-of-three-falls bout.

ESTLING CAPITALS

JOHNSON CITY, TN
BY RICK DENNIS



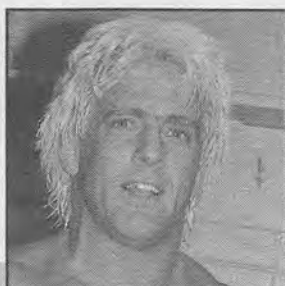
TRACEY SMOTHERS
VS.
BRUISER BEDLAM



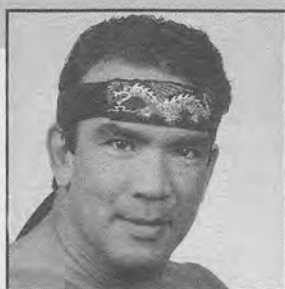
Smothers looked confident going into his coal miner's glove match with Bedlam, probably because that kind of bout is his specialty. Smothers dominated the action and held off Bedlam for several minutes. At the same time, he prevented Jim Cornette, Bedlam's manager, from interfering. Finally, when the referee wasn't looking, Cornette climbed the pole in an effort to get the glove. Smothers saw this and shoved him off. Tracey climbed the pole himself and retrieved the glove, but before he could use it, Bedlam kayoed him with brass knuckles and pinned him. As Bedlam and Cornette celebrated, Smothers got up and nailed Bruiser with the glove.

OTHER BOUTS: The Thrillseekers beat Well Dunn ... Smoky Mountain tag team champions Brian Lee & Chris Candido wrestled to a no-contest with The Rock 'n' Roll Express in a piledriver match ... Smoky Mountain heavyweight champion Jake Roberts defeated Tony Anthony by disqualification.

COLUMBIA, SC
BY WILL HARRIS



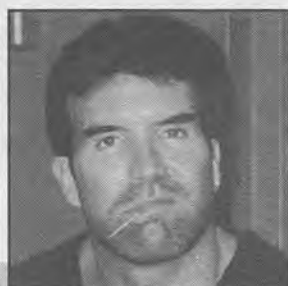
RIC FLAIR
VS.
RICK STEAMBOAT



WCW World champion Flair may be popular in Columbia, but he hurled insults at many fans at the Township Auditorium before action began. When the bout started, Flair, accompanied by Sherri Martel, went right after "The Dragon." Sherri attempted to interfere, but Steamboat kept her out of the ring. He had major problems when Flair locked on his figure-four, but eventually escaped. A few minutes later, Flair accidentally knocked out the referee. Steamboat applied his own figure-four, but Nick Patrick was out cold. Sherri then loaded her purse and came into the ring. While Steamboat was chasing her away, she threw a foreign object to Flair. He hit "The Dragon" with it and got the pinfall.

OTHER BOUTS: Erik Watts beat Bobby Eaton ... The Nasty Boys beat Stars 'n' Stripes ... Arn Anderson pinned Brian Pillman ... Dustin Rhodes beat Bunkhouse Buck in a bullrope match ... Sting defeated U.S. champ Steve Austin by disqualification.

RICHMOND, VA
BY NOAH INGLE



RAZOR RAMON
VS.
THE BARBARIAN



The "Bad Guy" was scheduled to wrestle Diesel, but since the Intercontinental champion had an injured knee, Barbarian substituted for him. Perhaps Ramon underestimated his opponent because the unheralded Barbarian was able to take the action right to him. He used an armbar, a bodyslam, and two powerful clotheslines and had Razor reeling. Ramon started to come to life after connecting with a punch to Barbarian's jaw. He followed it up with an elbowsmash. Suddenly, Adam Bomb appeared at ringside. Bomb obviously distracted Ramon as his foe hit him with a clothesline. But while Barbarian was shouting at some spectators, Ramon rolled him up in a small package and got the win.

OTHER BOUTS: The Smokin' Gunns defeated The Executioners ... Nikolai Volkoff beat Sparky Plugg ... Mabel beat Lanny Poffo ... Duke Droese pinned Adam Bomb ... WWF World tag team champions The Headshrinkers beat The Quebecers.



Matt Brock's **Plain Speaking**

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

The editors of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* are doing a poll to find out who's more popular, Hulk Hogan or Ric Flair. They shouldn't waste their time. I'll tell them. The vote is split: Hogan in the WWF, Flair in WCW. Hogan could pose while standing on his head and hum the national anthem and WCW fans would still prefer Flair over him. Flair could attack Sting and beat him up after the bell (like he did at Clash XXVII) and WCW fans would still root for him. Then take the same two wrestlers into a WWF arena and watch the exact opposite reaction. It's just the way things are. American

ORLANDO, FL

League fans like the designated hitter, National League fans hate it. Soccer fans see nothing wrong with scoreless ties. Basketball fans want 120-point games. WCW fans love Flair and hate Hogan, and vice versa. Different strokes for different folks, and all that. The question now is how Hogan reacts to being something less than a fan favorite. My guess is he doesn't like it at all. Hogan has a gigantic ego and he lives for those cheers. His little "Hulkamaniacs" don't know the way to WCW and that doesn't make him happy, either. Meanwhile, Flair breaks the rules left and right and the fans cheer him anyway. Strange breed, you wrestling fans. But I guess there's something to be said about loyalty. This really isn't about Hogan vs. Flair, but about WWF vs. WCW. Remember that.



HOGAN vs. FLAIR

Could it happen here? That's the subject in the WCW dressing rooms after news hit that Colombian soccer player Andres Escobar was killed by an assassin. It happened less than a week after Escobar mistakenly kicked a shot into

his own net in a World Cup soccer game against the United States. Of course, no wrestler will ever forget that Bruiser Brody was killed in a dressing room shower in Puerto Rico, and while I know instances of wrestlers being attacked by fans, I don't think there's been a single instance of a wrestler being killed by a fan. Sure, wrestling's not a team sport and not too many people gamble big money on wrestlers, but

those fans down in Mexico and Puerto Rico still sometimes get out of control. One WCW wrestler told me he's scared to wrestle in Japan, Mexico, and Puerto Rico because the fans are nuts. "People think Americans are fanatics," he said. "Americans are normal compared to sports fans everywhere else." Only a foolhardy wrestler turns his back in the ring, but that's because his opponent will likely seize the moment. It's not because some fan is going to shoot him in the head. Wrestlers don't think twice about walking down city streets and dining in crowded restaurants (although they're often besieged with autograph requests). For the time being, at least, American wrestlers are safe. Maybe we can keep it that way.

Wonder how many members of the media would have been on hand here tonight if not for the O.J. Simpson saga? Don't feel sorry for Tonya Harding, although the gal sure is guilty of compulsive bad timing. Here she is, making her long-awaited debut as a manager on a Championship Wrestling USA card, and everyone's wondering whether O.J.'s going to get the death penalty.



LOVE MACHINE, TONYA HARDING, & KONNAN

VANCOUVER, WA

The bout was telecast live by the local stations, but except for a few guys from the wire services and the local newspapers, nobody from the media bothered covering the event. I'm sure the *National Enquirer* was in the stands, but it doesn't count. Anyway, the event was less than it was trumped up to be. Harding couldn't stand at ringside because she signed too late to get a Washington state manager's license (bet you didn't know there was such a thing). She couldn't stand along the ring, but did stand by the barrier and handed American Love Machine a large soft drink. Love Machine promptly turned and threw it in Perro Aguayo's face. By the way, ran into Liz Hunter at this blessed event. We have to get our schedules together and make sure we stop running into each other. Not surprisingly, Hunter gave me this big speech about men exploiting women and insisted Harding has been

exploited once again by wrestling. I'm not sure I can feel sorry for a woman who had her chief figure skating rival knocked out by a tire iron, but I sure wasn't in the mood to argue with Ms. Hunter. Funny thing. Every time I try to type Hunter, it comes out H-U-N-G-E-R. Maybe I'm not drinking enough.

The news couldn't be sadder. WWF referee Joey Marella died in a car accident on the Fourth of July, only hours after a TV taping. He was driving back from Ocean City, Maryland on the New Jersey Turnpike when the fatal crash occurred. Marella, one of the finest arbiters in the sport, was a mere 30. He was the son of WWF TV analyst great Gorilla Monsoon, but played down the connection because he rightly wanted to be judged on his own merits. May he rest in far more peace than any WWF wrestler ever gave him. □

NEW YORK, NY

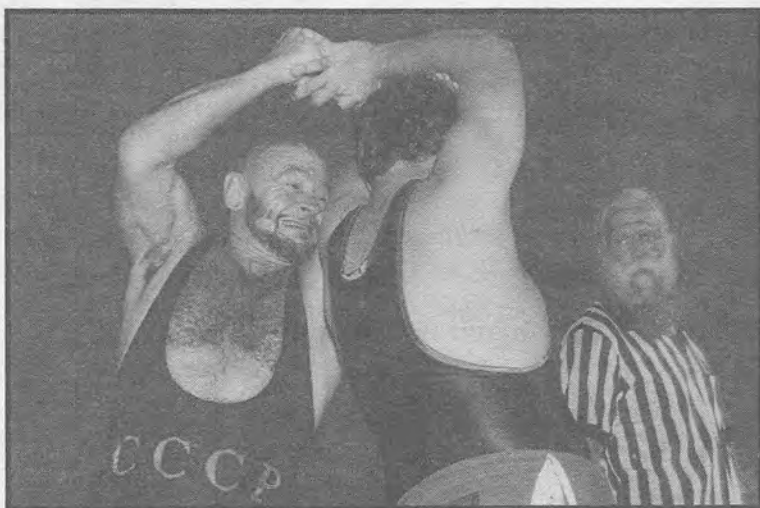


JOEY MARELLA

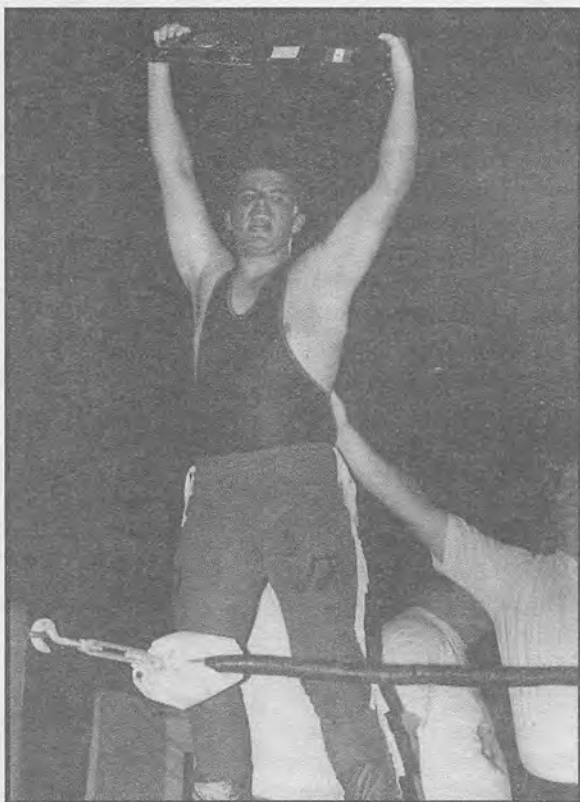
A 20-Year-Old Opponent, A 10-Year-Old Feud:

IVAN KOLOFF'S CAREER TEETERS ON THE VERGE OF DISASTER

Ivan Koloff figured he'd have no trouble defending his Mid-Atlantic Wrestling heavyweight title against 20-year-old Doug Gibson. But that was before he found out the guest referee was a hated rival



Jimmy Valiant concentrates on the action as Ivan Koloff engages young Doug Gibson in a test of strength (above). Gibson stronger than Koloff? Probably not. But at the end of the match, the youngster was the one holding the Mid-Atlantic heavyweight belt (left).



Photos by Floyd See

By Dave Rosenbaum

A FORMER WWF World champion has the right to laugh when a young hot-shot comes out of nowhere and issues a challenge. So Ivan Koloff should have had nothing to fear when Doug Gibson staked his initial claim to the Mid-Atlantic Wrestling heavyweight title.

That was many months ago, long before Koloff learned once again that all championships are built on shaky ground and old enemies never die. Sometimes they don't even fade away.

Koloff vs. Jimmy Valiant was one of the great old feuds of the Mid-Atlantic region in the early-'80s. Doug Gibson remembers the effect those matches had on a 12-year-old boy. "I used to watch their matches in Harrisonburg, Vir-

ginia," he recalls. "Watching the Koloff-Valiant matches, the intensity, the way the crowd reacted, that's what made me want to become a professional wrestler. I worked toward that goal ever since."

Amazingly, Gibson made his pro debut a mere three years later, lying about his age to secure a wrestler's license. Now a five-year veteran at the age of 20, Gibson wasn't even born the day Ivan Koloff stunned the wrestling world with his upset of Bruno Sammartino at Madison Square Garden in 1971.

Based on his own accomplishments, the "Russian Bear" should have known better than anyone that any wrestler is capable of beating another on any given day. Still, he chose to lay the blame for his loss to Gibson on his old rival.

"Jimmy Valiant is lying American cheater and coward," Koloff shouted. Blood rushed to his head so fast that it threatened to gush from his ears. "Some things never change. I thought he was gone forever."

Valiant has pretty much curtailed his active wrestling career, but he was only too happy to oblige promoters who asked him to officiate the match between Koloff and Gibson.

"It's something I've been looking forward to for a long time," he said.

Valiant denied showing favoritism toward Gibson, although the match tapes clearly show him counting pins much slower for Koloff than he did for his young opponent. Koloff appeared to have Gibson pinned several times during the match. Each time, Valiant counted painfully slowly. Painfully for Koloff.

One. Pause. Pause. Two. Pause. Pause ...

And never three. When Gibson covered Koloff, it was a different story. The counts were always lightning fast.

During on their more than 100 battles, Valiant and Koloff mix it up in Roanoke, Virginia. Quite possibly, Gibson was in the stands.





As Koloff grabs the lead, Valiant does his best to intercede (above). Koloff brings Gibson to his knees, but he can't break his will (top).

Onetwothree. As quick as that. Valiant never lifted his hand more than two inches off the mat and he brought it down fast. Each beat of the hand was a slap to Koloff's face, a reminder of long-

forgotten scars.

Suddenly, Gibson became a spectator in his own feud. That was a shame, because he earned his moment in the spotlight, even if he didn't quite earn the victory.

"I'm proud of what I did," Gibson said. "People can say what they want. Everybody laughed when I first challenged Koloff, but I proved myself worthy of this title shot. Then I went out and made the most of it. What more do people want from me?"

Nobody could ask for more because nobody expected anything in the first place. Koloff wasn't the only one laughing months ago when Gibson announced he wanted a title shot.

"That is very funny," Koloff said mockingly at the time. "He thinks he can just come out and get title shot against great Ivan Koloff. I will tell you what. That little punk can't have title shot unless he beats me in Russian chain match."

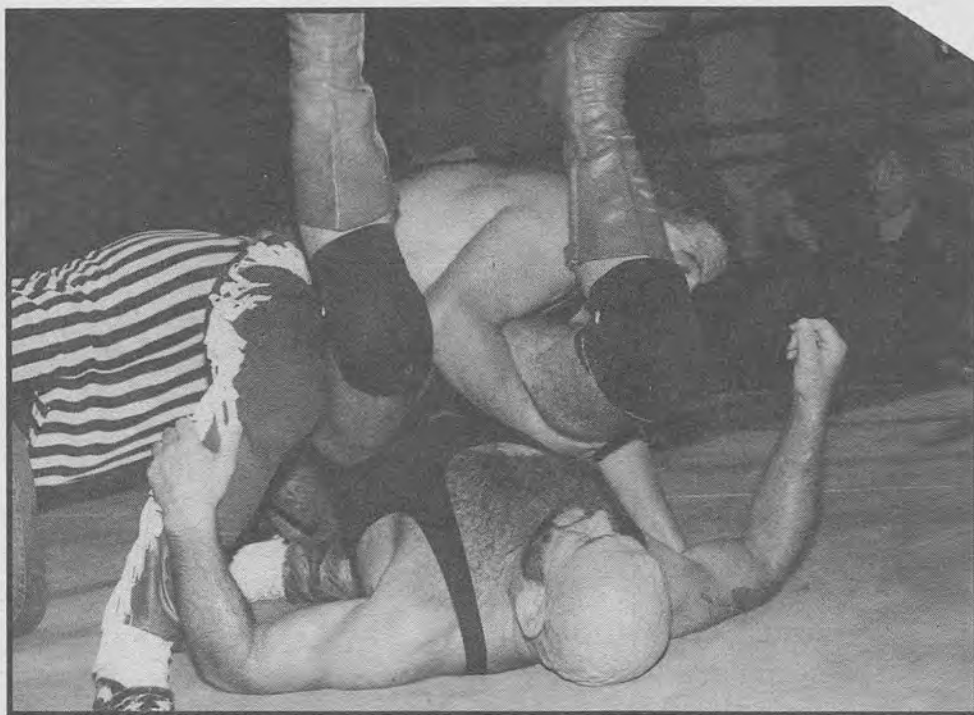
The challenge was daunting. It was like saying, "You can play for the Seattle Mariners if you beat Ken Griffey Jr. in a home run-hitting contest," or, "You can play for the Chicago Bulls if you beat Michael Jordan in a slam-dunk contest."

Daunting? Koloff, of course, is Russian, and has a way with chains.

But Doug Gibson, as American as an American can be, went out and beat the legendary Russian at his own game. He actually won the Russian chain match.

Koloff claimed Gibson got lucky. Many observers agreed with Koloff's assessment. It didn't matter: Gibson had officially earned his title shot.

When Koloff tried to weasel out of his agreement, Mid-Atlantic officials told him he would be stripped of the belt if he didn't wrestle Gibson. Nervous, and on the verge of total humiliation, Koloff hired "Beautiful" Billy Sexton as



Bill Sexton tries to get into the ring to save Koloff, but Valiant's fast hands make that impossible (left). Perhaps caught up in the excitement of the moment, Gibson makes the questionable move of posing with Valiant, whose impartiality will deservedly come under heavy scrutiny (below).

his manager. Sexton is one of the sneakiest wrestlers in the world—rare is the match in which he doesn't interfere—and he knows Gibson's strengths and weaknesses very well.

"There'll be no mistakes this time," Sexton declared.

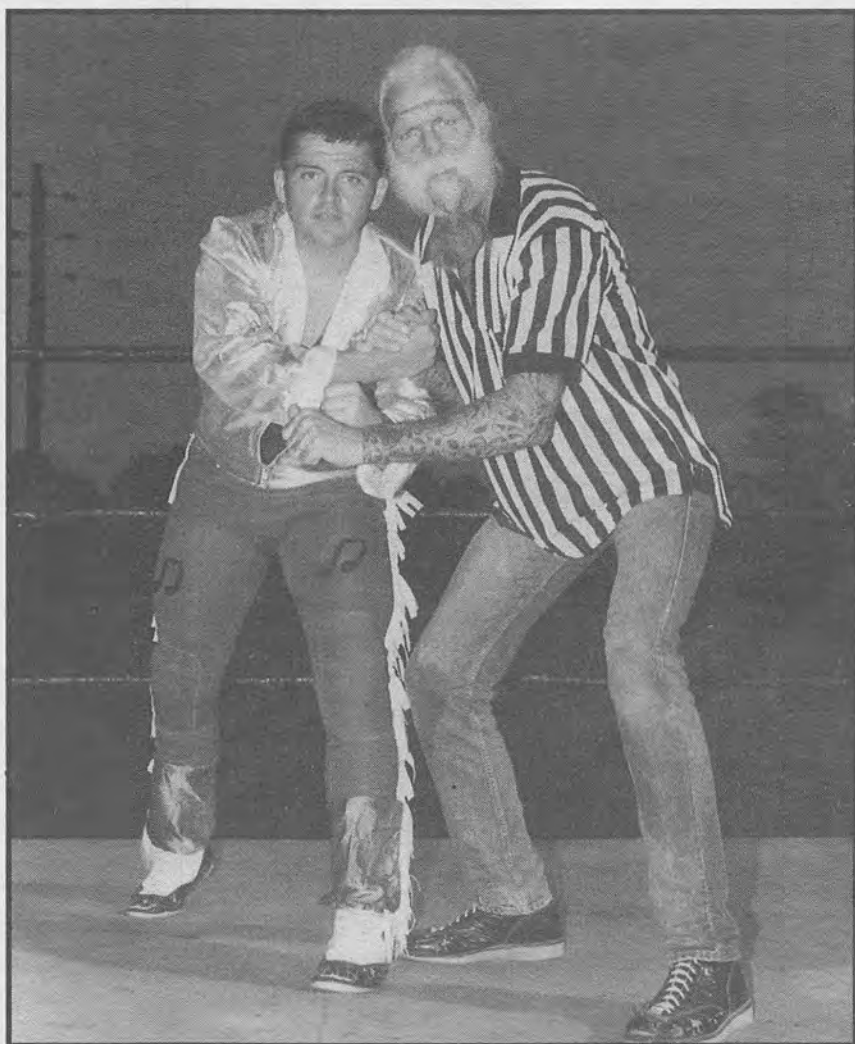
But Sexton's biggest mistake was not paying attention. One night before the big event, while watching Mid-Atlantic Wrestling on TV, Koloff received some shocking news: Jimmy Valiant was appointed special referee for the title match.

Koloff was outraged. He immediately phoned Sexton and asked him how this could happen. According to insiders, Koloff initially accused Sexton of "treason and espionage." They settled their differences before the conversation ended. Sexton then phoned Mid-Atlantic officials and received "100 percent assurance Valiant would be a fair and impartial referee."

So much for guarantees.

And so much for burying the hatchet.

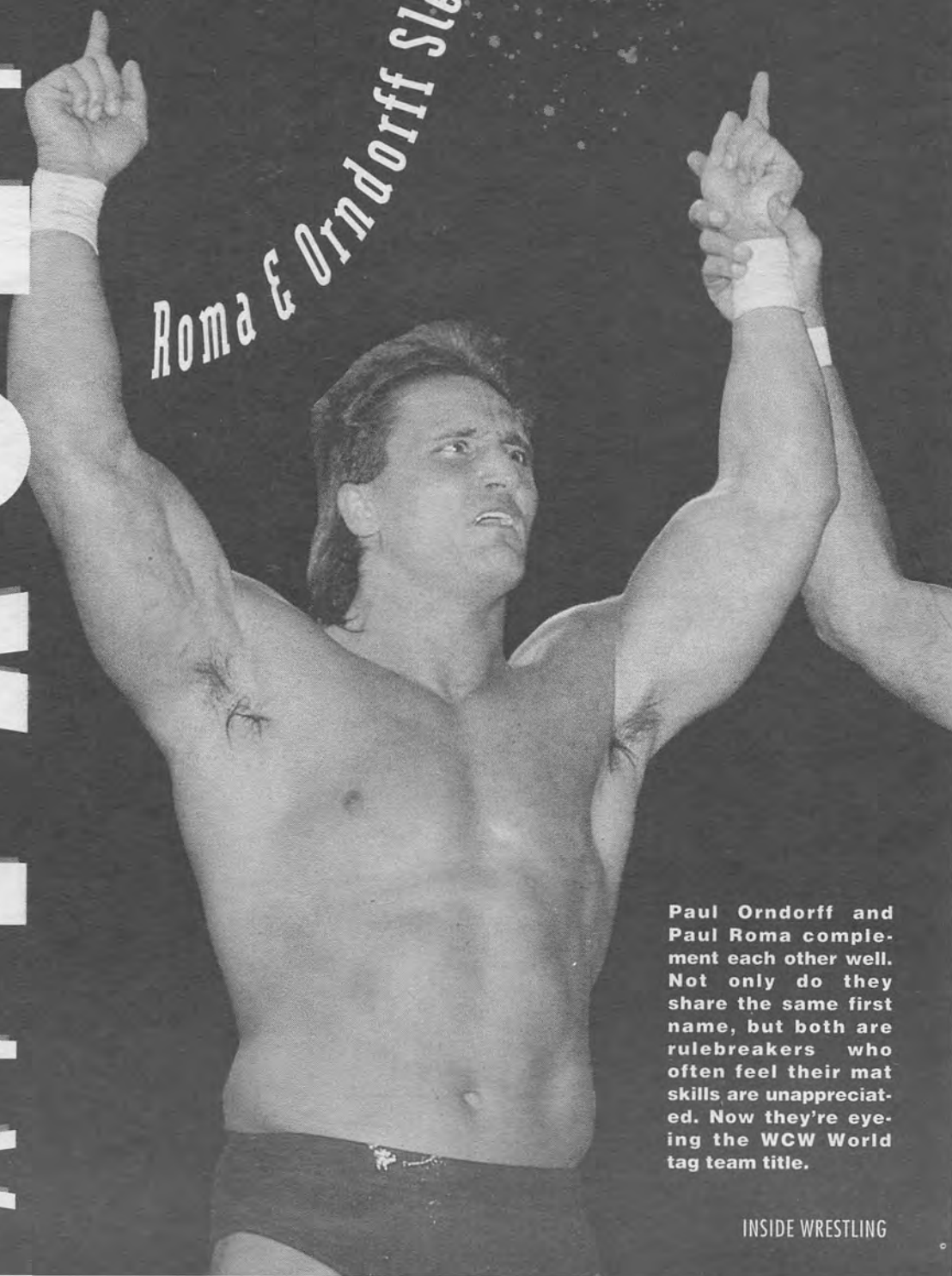
Koloff vs. Valiant lives on. We might not have to wait long for the next chapter. □



APRAULING!

30

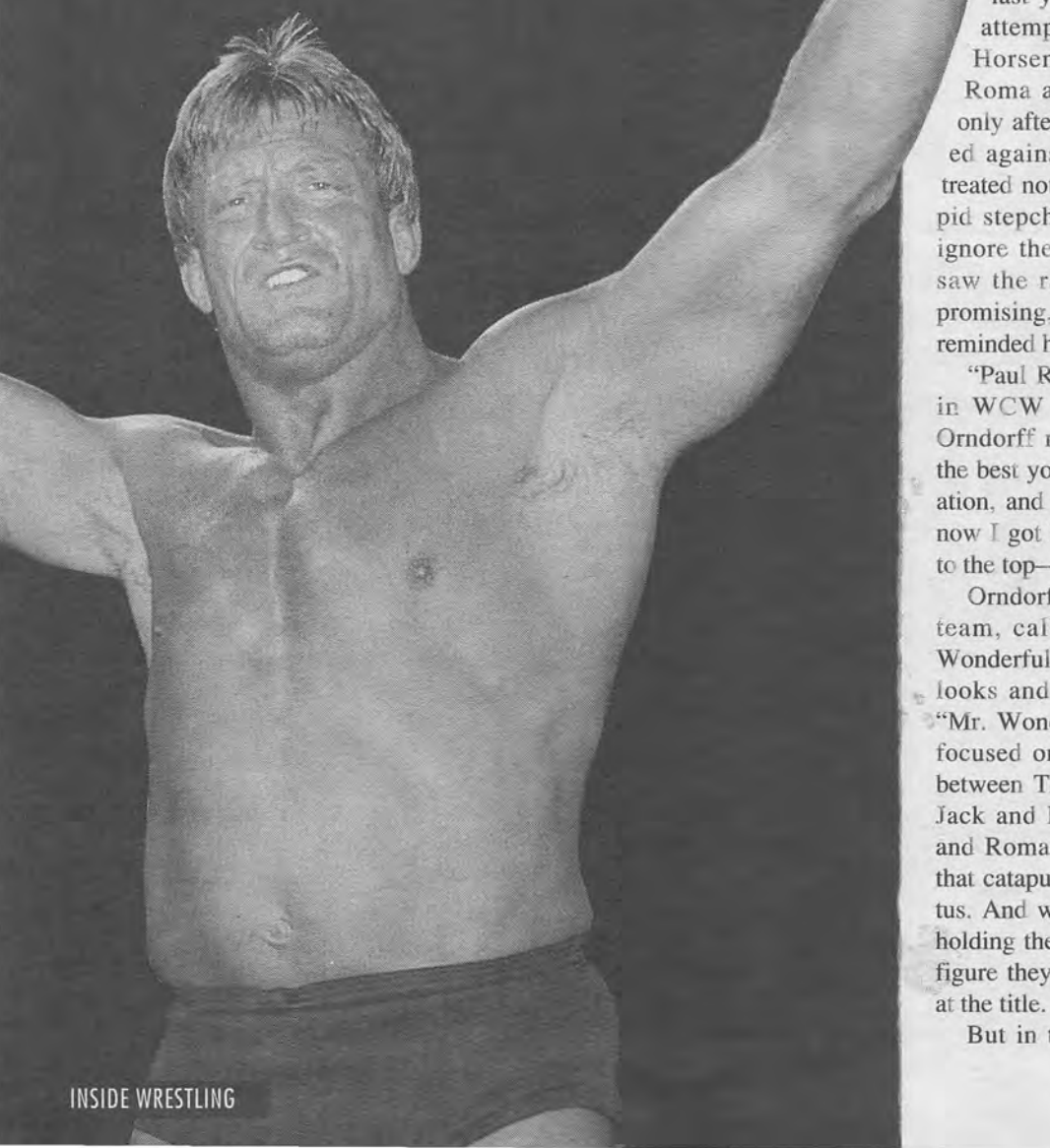
Roma & Orndorff Sleaze Their Way To The Top!



Paul Orndorff and Paul Roma complement each other well. Not only do they share the same first name, but both are rulebreakers who often feel their mat skills are unappreciated. Now they're eyeing the WCW World tag team title.

Paul Orndorff and Paul Roma,
two of wrestling's black sheep,
have come together to form a
contending tag team in WCW.

They claim to be "Pretty
Wonderful," but the fans and fan
favorites seem to think otherwise



By Chris Bernucca

PAUL ORNDORFF KNOWS how Paul Roma feels.

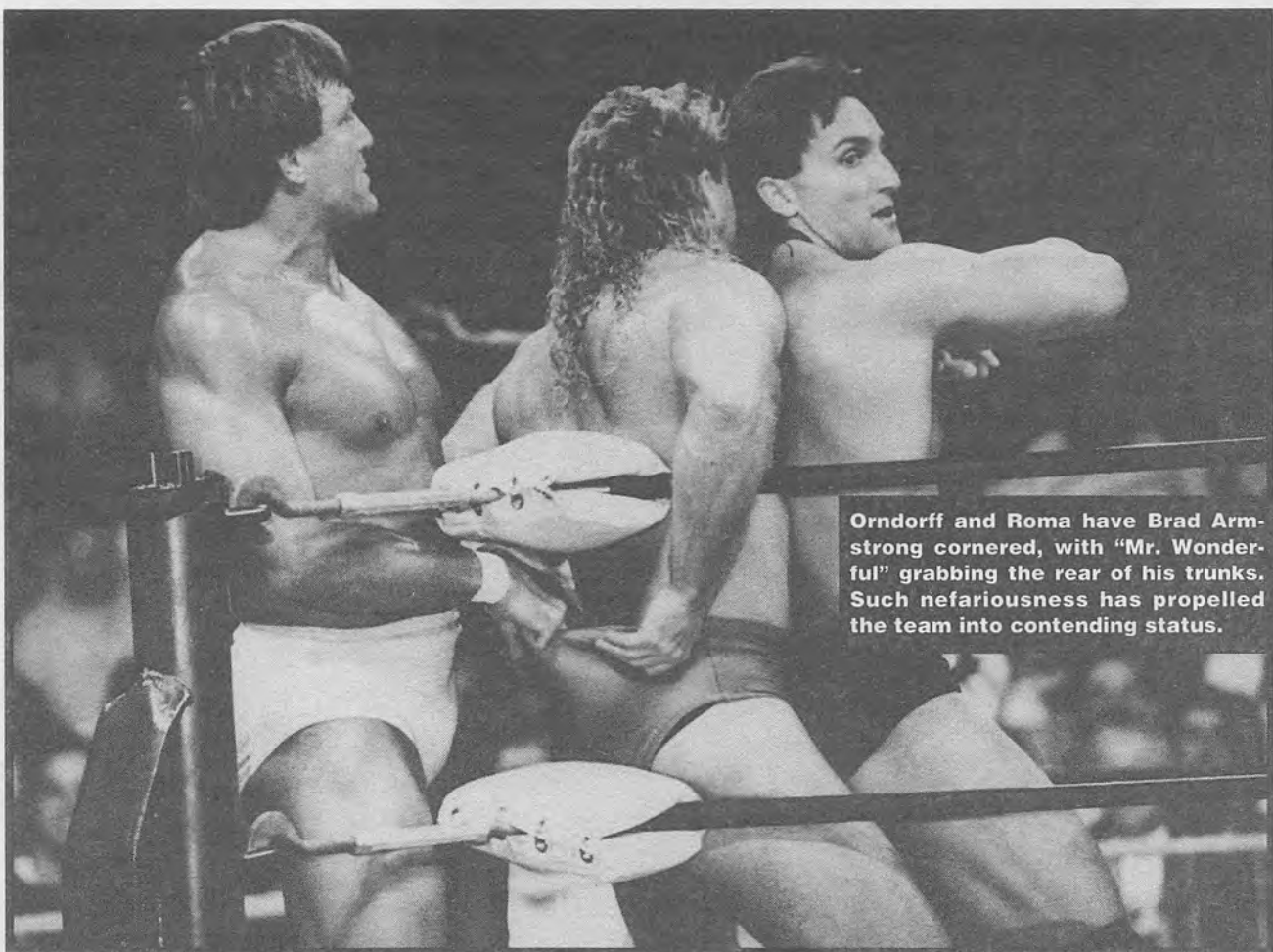
Orndorff has spent his entire wrestling career as an underappreciated performer. Never mind that he is one of the best competitors in the sport, or that he nearly dethroned the mighty Hulk Hogan during his stay in the WWF. Never mind that he has used his skills to climb from the bottom of the WCW rankings to a perch as lofty as TV champion. The resounding boos and catcalls of "Paula" still cascade down upon him from fans in the stands.

Orndorff paid close attention last year to Ric Flair's ill-fated attempt at re-forming The Four Horsemen. He saw them select Roma as its fourth member, but only after several prior picks decided against joining. He saw Roma treated not as a brother, but as a stupid stepchild. He saw Roma try to ignore the barbs from the fans. He saw the rage build in this young, promising, well-built wrestler and it reminded him of someone—himself.

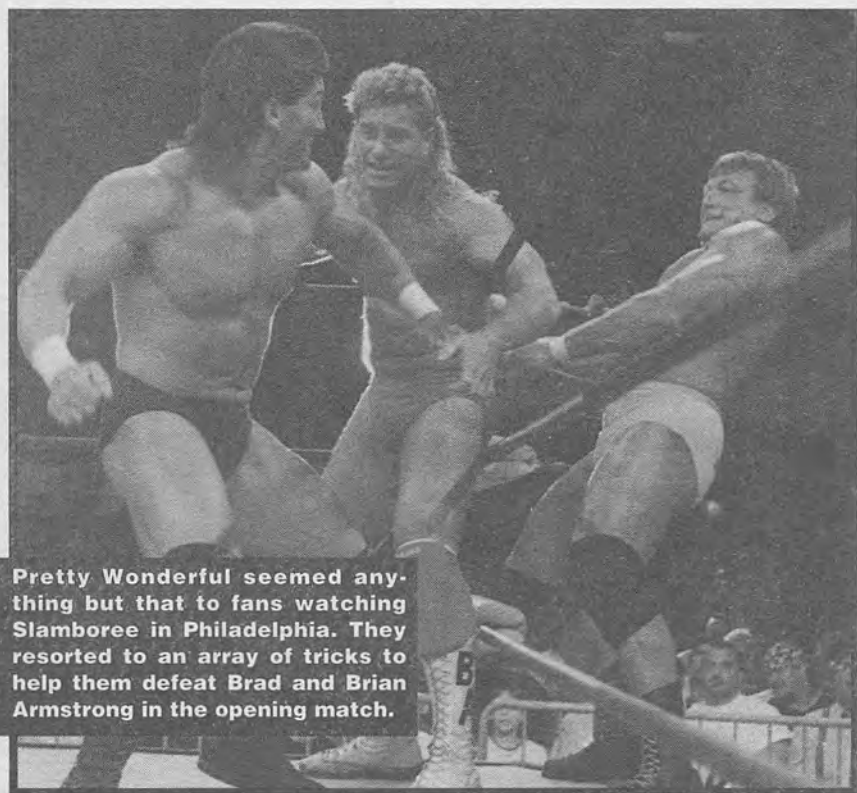
"Paul Roma has skills that people in WCW aren't even aware of," Orndorff maintained. "He is one of the best young wrestlers in this federation, and no one wanted him. Well, now I got him, and we're going right to the top—together."

Orndorff and Roma formed a tag team, calling themselves "Pretty Wonderful," a play on Roma's good looks and Orndorff's nickname of "Mr. Wonderful." While WCW fans focused on the tag team title battle between The Nasty Boys and Cactus Jack and Kevin Sullivan, Orndorff and Roma put together a hot streak that catapulted them to contender status. And with Jack and Sullivan now holding the belts, Orndorff and Roma figure they are next in line for a shot at the title.

But in the minds of the fans and



Orndorff and Roma have Brad Armstrong cornered, with "Mr. Wonderful" grabbing the rear of his trunks. Such nefariousness has propelled the team into contending status.

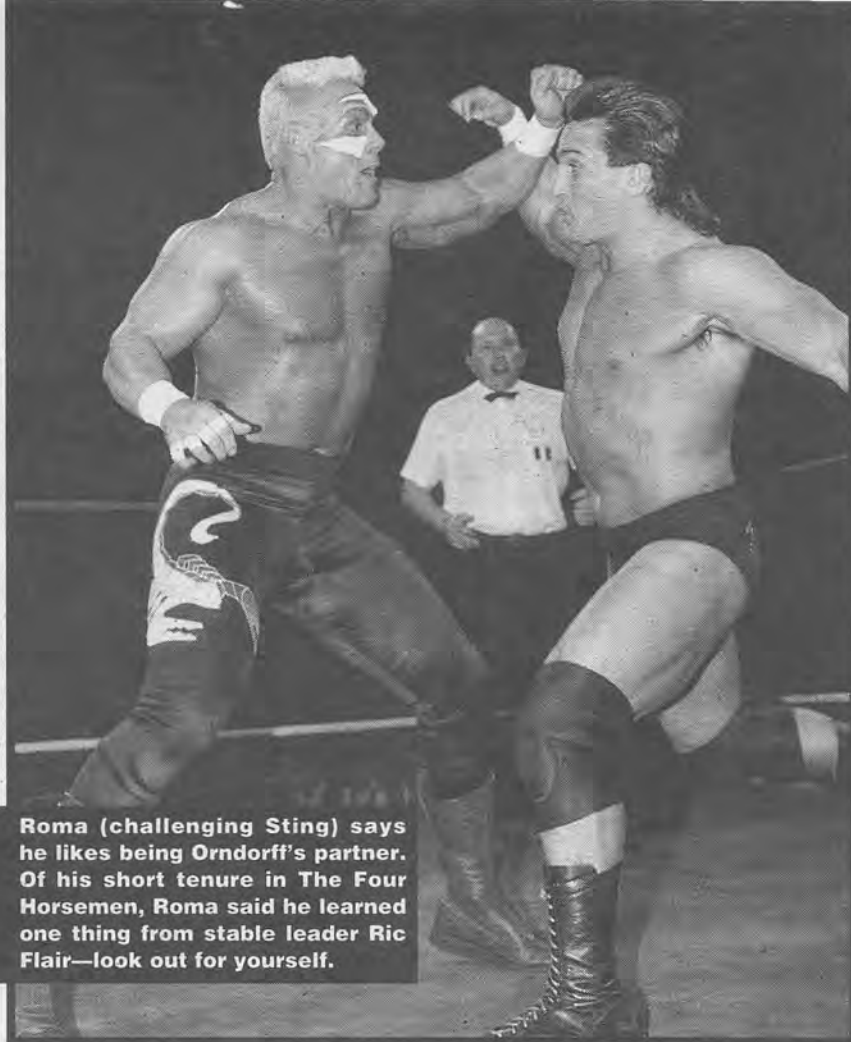


Pretty Wonderful seemed anything but that to fans watching Slamboree in Philadelphia. They resorted to an array of tricks to help them defeat Brad and Brian Armstrong in the opening match.

fan favorites, there is plenty not to like about Pretty Wonderful. Orndorff, who has been a rulebreaker for years, has found another partner in crime.

History is also at work here. Orndorff was a mortal enemy of Hogan and figures to tangle with him again somewhere down the line. Roma turned his back on Flair, ultimately leading to the dissolution of The Four Horsemen. Hogan and Flair are merely the most popular wrestlers in the world, and the fans don't forget those who opposed them.

"The fans say I hurt Ric Flair?" Roma asked before taking a sarcastic tone. "Well, boo hoo hoo. That's all I've got to say. Were the fans upset when I agreed to join The Four Horsemen, even though I was about the seventh choice? Let me tell you something about Ric Flair and The Four Horsemen. Forget that family act, forget that gracious crap he pulled



Roma (challenging Sting) says he likes being Orndorff's partner. Of his short tenure in The Four Horsemen, Roma said he learned one thing from stable leader Ric Flair—look out for yourself.

after winning the title. Ric Flair is only interested in one person—Ric Flair. We were all there to protect him and make his path to the title an easy one.

"Everyone talks about Ric Flair being this master of ring psychology and a genius and all that, and I didn't learn a thing from him in the four months I was with him. No, let me correct that. I learned one thing from Ric Flair—look out for yourself and to hell with everyone else."

Arn Anderson isn't surprised by Roma's comments. "That sounds like typical Paul Roma, blaming someone else for his own failures," he said. "I'm glad he's teaming with Orndorff. The two of them deserve each other."

Anderson, who briefly formed a tag team with Dustin Rhodes, may be glad that Roma and Orndorff are a team, but he's in a minority. Pretty-boy antics and rulebreaking tactics aside, the duo has become a force in

the WCW tag team title picture. Jack and Sullivan had a tough time winning the title from the Nastys and will have to stay at that level to hold off Pretty Wonderful, who would like nothing better than to prove all the doubters wrong.

"They can chant 'Paula' all they want," Orndorff said of the fans. "They're all clueless idiots anyway. They don't even realize what's happening under their own noses. I've taken a guy they thought was a bum and turned him into a title contender. We'll see how much they chant 'Paula' when me and Paul are champions."

Should Orndorff and Roma win the title, many fan favorites would consider it a black eye for WCW. Almost every one of Pretty Wonderful's matches are dotted with interference and rulebreaking, regardless of the skill level of their opponents. That makes their victories all the more

unbearable, because both men boast—rightfully so—that they are excellent technical grapplers. But many believe they resort to rulebreaking because their ring skills leave them a trifle short against the WCW's better wrestlers.

"Those are a couple of really baaaaaaaad men," Johnny B. Badd said. "I don't trust them at all. They call themselves Pretty Wonderful, but I think they're pretty disgusting. And who knows more about being pretty than me?"

Roma wasn't surprised by Badd's comment. "Sounds like jealousy to me," he said. "If people can't deal with our success, then maybe they should take up needlepoint or something. All I know, there is a day coming for a new tag team champion in WCW. And when that day comes, it will be pretty wonderful!" □

Last year, Orndorff watched as the Horsemen recruited Roma, then did little with him. He's glad to have Orndorff as a teammate for tag matches against the likes of Sting and Rick Steamboat.



POOR DiBIASE!

Once His Men Read This Story ...
HE'S FINISHED!

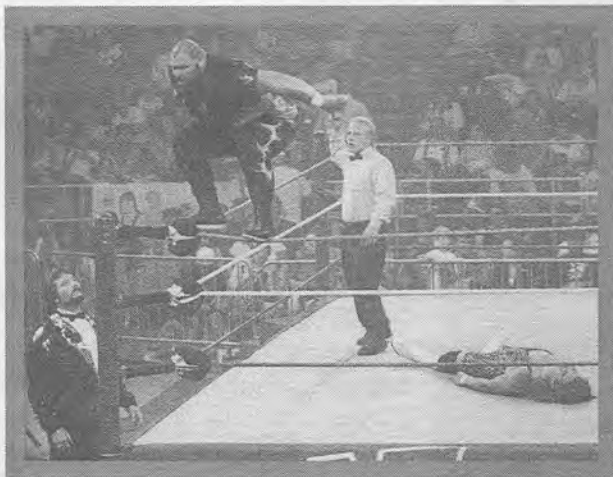


A fraudulent land development deal involving Ted DiBiase turned the “Million-Dollar Man” into the “10-Cent Kid.” DiBiase is scrambling to make sure his wrestlers don’t discover his true worth

Ted DiBiase has money—but maybe not as much of it as he used to. The “Million-Dollar Man” was reportedly taken in a Florida land scam, losing quite a bit of his fortune. That’s not good news for the wrestlers in his stable.

By Dave Rosenbaum

Bam Bam Bigelow has accomplished a lot in the WWF, but has yet to win a title. He's hoping DiBiase's managing can put him over the top.



Virgil, who had a huge falling out with DiBiase after being repeatedly humiliated by the "Million-Dollar Man," takes the offensive against Nikolai Volkoff (below), the initial recruit in DiBiase's budding stable (below right).



MONEY IS POWER and with Ted DiBiase, money is everything. The truest test of DiBiase's worth, however, fails miserably. Our story begins two years ago on a slice of swampland in the Florida Everglades.

Here, where sugar companies recklessly turn out their product and dump thousands of gallons of refuse into the waters, environmentalists have chosen to fight one of their most important wars. The war is against development and growth. At stake is the

future of the world. Of course, there are stakes for the developers, too. Land and money. In South Florida, most development ends about 15 miles west of the Atlantic Ocean, where the Everglades now begin. Civilization resumes some 90 miles west, on Florida's Gulf Coast. In

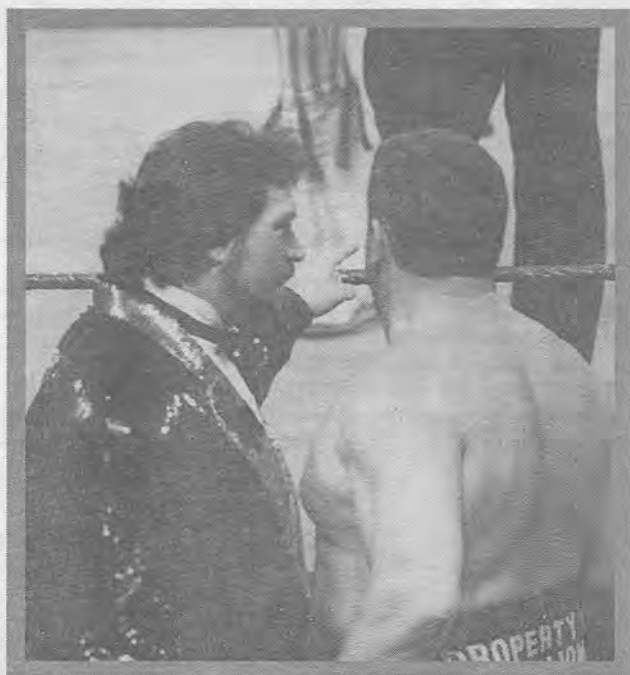
between, there is life.

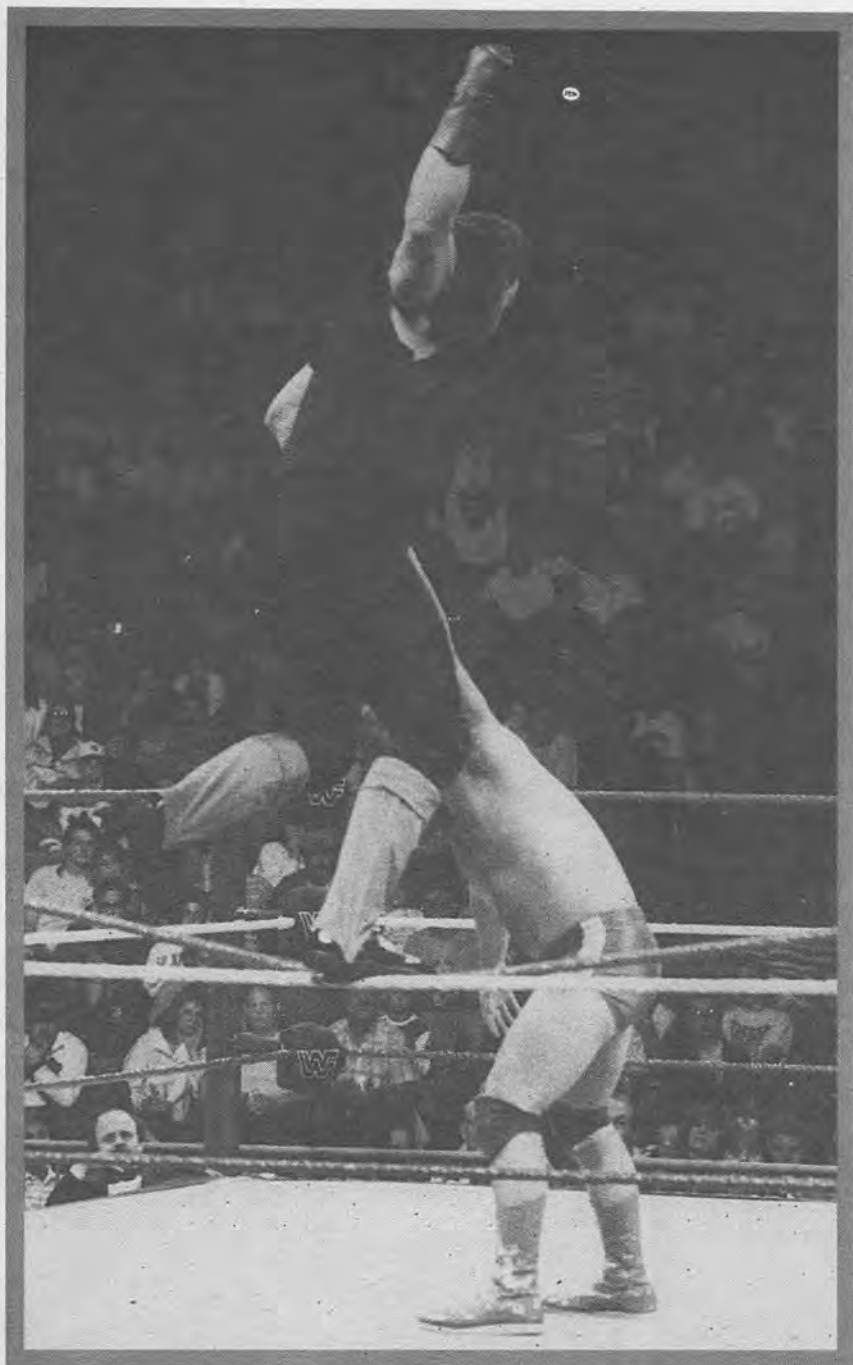
But greed is DiBiase's driving force. **INSIDE WRESTLING** has learned from reliable sources that in 1992, he was involved in a land speculation deal that threatened to develop a large parcel of the 90 miles of Everglades between East and West Florida.

The developers intended to build a planned community of single-family homes, townhouses, and shops on a plot of 10 square miles. This community, however, would affect all of the Everglades and, in turn, all of the world, because of the need for sewage disposal and the disruption of the natural environment.

It is worth pointing out here that these so-called developers had no intention of carrying out their plan. They knew other attempts to develop the Everglades had been stonewalled by environmentalists and the state legislature. Besides, much of this land is owned by the federal government.

Their real intention was to defraud several investors. DiBiase was one of them. With millions of dollars to spare and little time to investigate, DiBiase was roped in and taken on a ride through this





DiBiase claims The Undertaker is now in his stable, although manager Paul Bearer says Undertaker is still in contact with him. DiBiase's 'Taker may be counterfeit—and given Ted's financial woes, that's appropriate.

alligator-infested swamp. When all was said and done—and when the developers had disappeared—DiBiase's bank account had shrunk to a mere fraction of its previous worth:

He wasn't broke, but he wasn't rich.

Two years later, very little has changed about DiBiase's lifestyle. He still has houses, swimming pools, and cars. He still takes expensive vacations. But he is liv-

ing on his WWF salary and what's left of his empire is all he will ever have. The inheritance is gone.

DiBiase has money, but he is no richer than The Undertaker, Bam Bam Bigelow, or any of the other wrestlers he is trying to combine into one great, big million-dollar stable.

"DiBiase is too proud to admit he was so careless with so much money," said a source. "Besides, it's one thing to have no money and another to admit it. If he admitted the truth, he'd have nothing, money or power. Look at Donald Trump. He was rich, and then he lost everything, but he insisted all along that he was still rich. Finally, he got everything back together. That's what DiBiase's hoping for.

"The difference is that DiBiase isn't a businessman. He inherited his fortune and there's no way for him to get it back."

That makes this story DiBiase's worst nightmare come true. His only hope would be to buy up every single newsstand copy of *INSIDE WRESTLING*. Once The Undertaker and Bigelow read this, DiBiase will have a lot of explaining to do.

And few good answers.

DiBiase is building this stable on a foundation of promises. He promised to turn Undertaker and Bigelow into rich men. Forget for a moment that DiBiase's Undertaker probably isn't the real thing. Whoever this man is will be very angry when he discovers the truth about his manager.

This is DiBiase's ultimate deception, and will lead to his ultimate fall.

"It's possible DiBiase won't be able to deliver on his contracts," said a WWF insider. "I can only guess what he's offering Lex Luger, but it must be in the millions of dollars. I don't know where DiBiase's going to get that kind of money, unless he sells a few

houses and a few cars. But then what does he have? He'd be revealing himself."

DiBiase was right all along when he said everybody has a price. Now there's considerable doubt whether he himself has the means to pay the price.

The Florida land deal was a complete scam. DiBiase lost every cent of the millions he invested because the alleged developers demanded the money up front. DiBiase was a fool's fool. He never asked for documentation or a copy

of the building permits. He trusted people he didn't even know. They promised to make him richer and DiBiase was blinded by greed.

In the movie *Wall Street*, the Gordon Gekko character played by Michael Douglas tells a room of stockholders that "greed is good." He proceeds to rape them of their money. Greed is good, but only for the few who profit.

Greed was DiBiase's ultimate weapon, and led to his humiliation. But the final humiliation has yet to come. □

It will take DiBiase plenty of dough to bring Lex Luger into the fold. But how can he afford to sign a wrestler of Luger's stature without jeopardizing his personal image of affluence?



Sting's Outrage!

"SHERRI COST ME

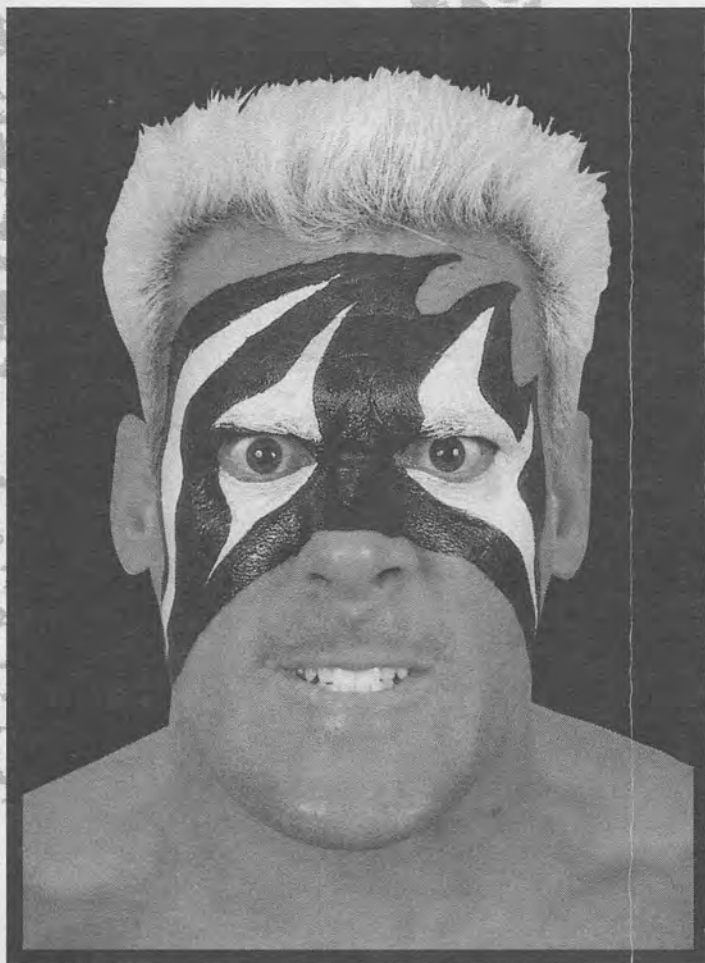
MY SHOT

AT IMMORTALITY!"

Becoming a four-time
WCW World champion
would have
placed Sting among the
greatest wrestlers ever.

Sneaky Sherri Martel
got in his way,
and Sting's out for
revenge

Photos by David Goodman & J. Stoll/WCW



HISTORY SHOULD HAVE made Sting think, *What is she doing there? Is she here for me?* But we can't blame a man for trusting others. Sting just didn't stop to think Sherri Martel was there to ruin his night.

By now, Ric Flair and Hulk Hogan have already had their night at the Bash at the Beach on July 17 in Orlando, Florida. There will be other nights, too. And perhaps by now, Sting and Hogan have formed a superteam capable of doing great things and drawing great crowds.

But at Clash of the Champions XXVII, Sting had no idea Sherri was about to ruin his year.

"I thought she was there for me," Sting said in a whisper. "Not that I would've had her, but I thought she was there for me. How could I have guessed that Flair and Sherri had it all set up?"

He couldn't, unless he realized that Flair and Sherri are two of the most devious individuals in wrestling. They cannot be trusted.

"Flair took advantage of the situation," Sting said, his outrage building. "Sherri cost me my shot at immortality!"

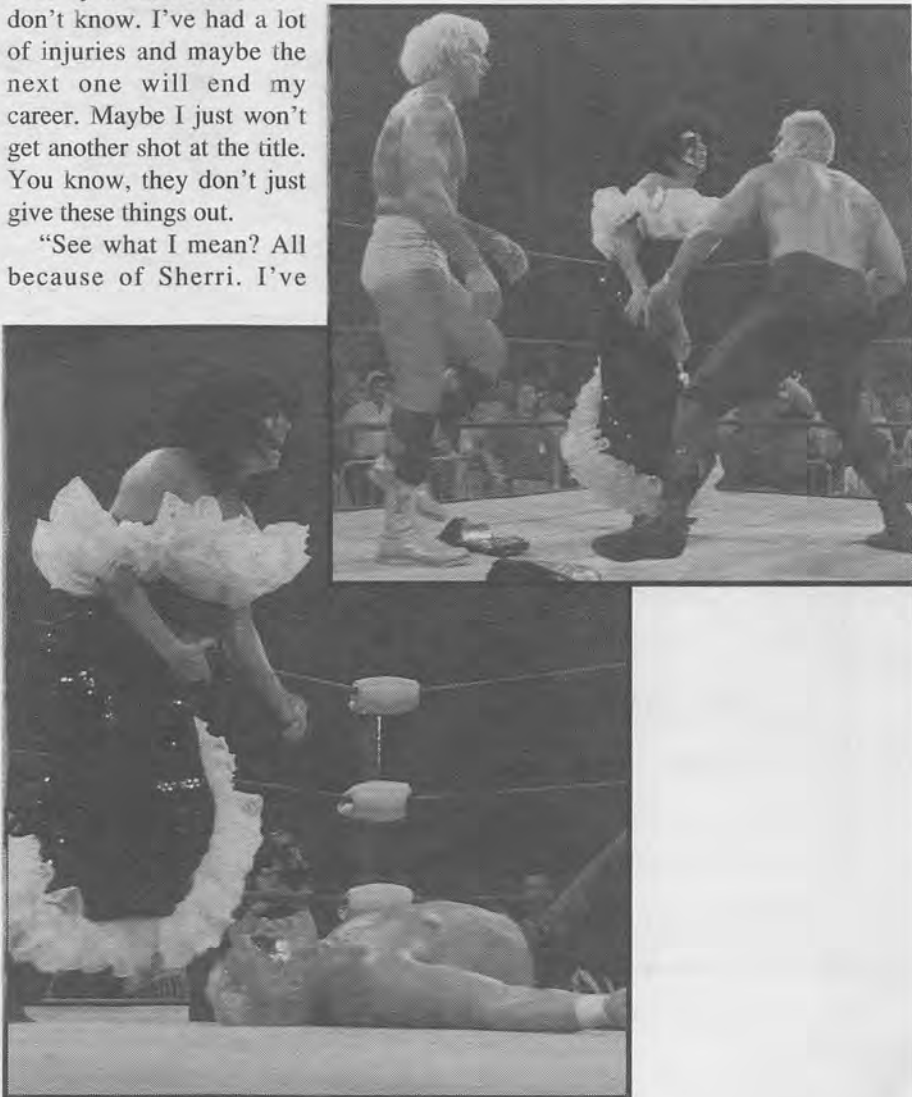
This match had huge significance in two areas: First, it was a unification match pitting the International champion against the World champion. Second, the winner would be the first WCW wrestler to face Hulk Hogan. For Sting, however, the match has its own personal importance: Sting knows only five men have won four NWA/WCW World titles and all are immortals. The list includes Joe Stecher, Ed "Strangler" Lewis, Lou Thesz, Harley Race, and Ric Flair. Among the non-qualifiers are such greats as Jim Londos, Buddy Rogers, and Dusty Rhodes.

Sting, the three-time WCW World champion, had a great shot at joining this exclusive club. Sherri stopped him and Sting knows there might never be another chance.

"Who knows what's going to happen?" he said. "I mean, if nothing goes wrong, I should be able to win another title, but I don't know what's going to happen. Maybe I'll get run over by a car tomorrow. I don't know. I've had a lot of injuries and maybe the next one will end my career. Maybe I just won't get another shot at the title. You know, they don't just give these things out."

"See what I mean? All because of Sherri. I've

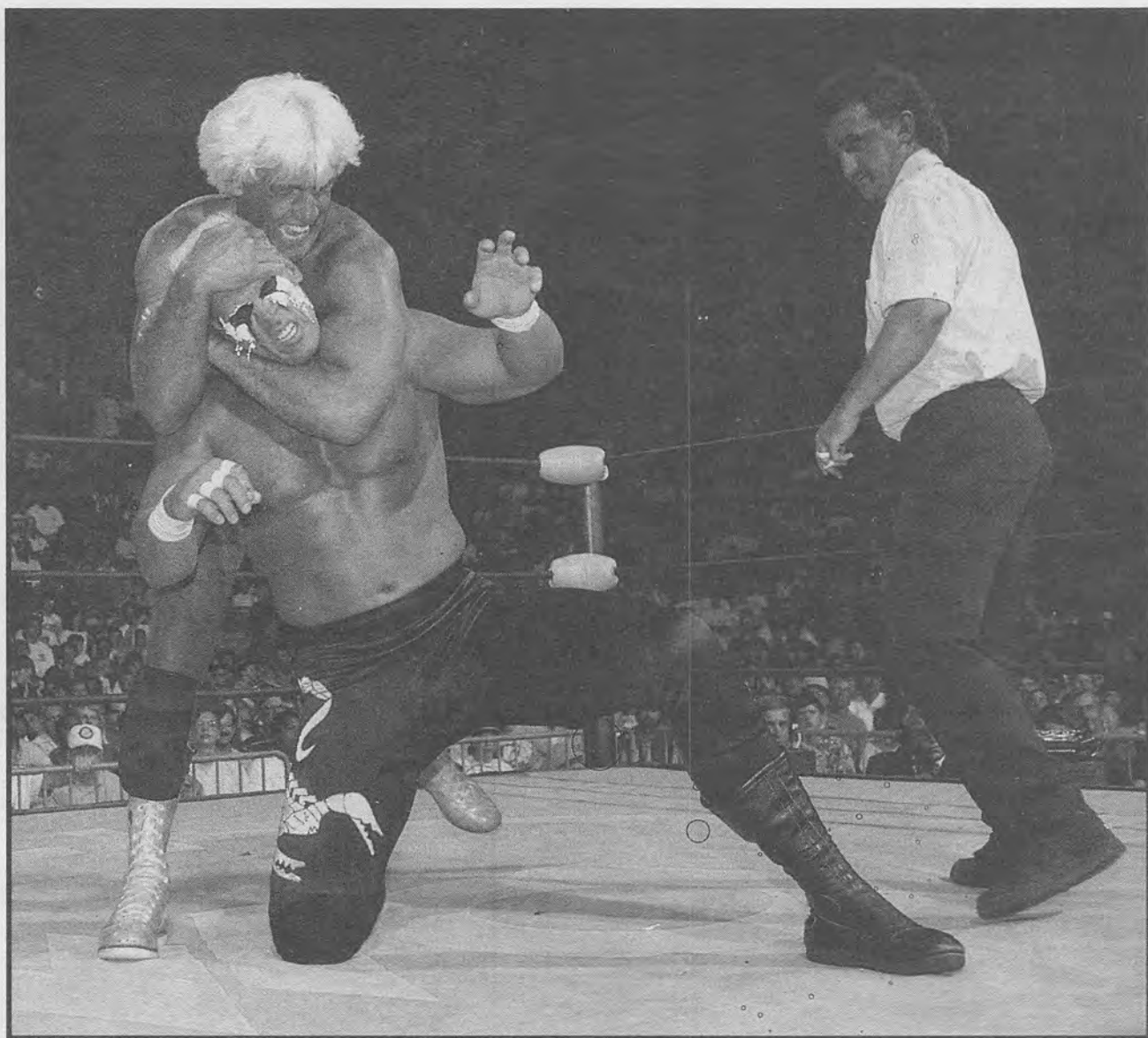
With the famed face paint, Sherri Martel appears to be on Sting's side for his match against Ric Flair (below). But little did Sting know he would be getting stung (bottom).



never hit a woman, I know I never will, but I hate to admit that part of me would love to sock her."

Just like Sherri socked him at Clash XXVII in Charleston, South Carolina.

Sherri went so far as to paint her face like Sting's when she appeared in his corner for the main event against Flair. By the end of the match, Sting was wearing Sherri as she twice splashed him from the top rope while



Flair clamps on a sleeperhold, but a determined Sting would power out and recover quickly.

Flair held him. Then Hogan ran out and stole all the thunder.

"I'm not mad at Hulk," Sting insisted. "He was trying to help me. People say he picked his spot. I don't think so. He was just trying to help."

Tell it to Sherri, who insisted she was trying to help Sting when everything went wrong. When Sting attempted a flying bodypress from inside the ring to outside, Flair pulled Sherri in front of him on the arena floor. Sting crashed into Sherri and she hit her head on a railing.

"He did it on purpose!" Sherri screamed to reporters. "He was out to get me! I was there to help him and that's the thanks I get? He doesn't deserve me! He deserves Hogan!"

Sherri's voice threatened to break glass and shatter eardrums, but her charges fell on deaf ears. There's little doubt Flair and Sherri had this one planned all along. Even Flair admitted to the ruse.

"Sherri's a very smart woman," he said afterward. "She knows exactly what she wants and she goes and gets it. In this case, we both wanted the same thing—Sting. And we both got him."

If WCW officials are to be believed, Sting hasn't received his last shot at the World title. Whether Hogan or Flair is wearing the belt, Sting will get more chances. The question now is whether Sting wants Hogan or Flair. He seems more con-

cerned with running Sherri out of WCW and back where she belongs.

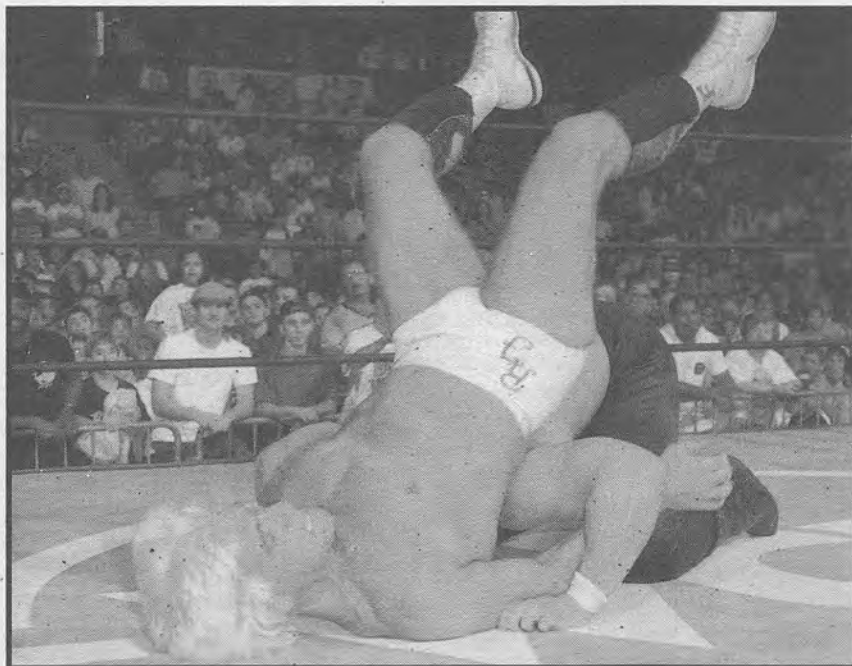
"Wherever that is," Sting cracked. "There must be somebody who wants her. She goes through wrestlers like Hulk goes through power bars. Flair should watch himself. If he thinks Sherri's always going to be there for him, he should check his history. Just like I should've."

Sherri says she can't be bothered with Sting, not when Hogan's around. The "Hulkster" is the big prize for any manager/valet/adviser and this isn't the first time she has concentrated her efforts on Hogan (remember Savage vs. Hogan in the WWF?). A feud has been renewed. Sting is something new for her.

"He's kind of cute, but down deep he's a wimp," she charged. "Look at what I did to him! A few bodypresses from a woman and he's practically paralyzed!"

Paralyzed with outrage. Sting, the man who never hit a woman, is looking for a new definition of the word woman. One that doesn't include Sherri.

Sting nearly has his man (below), but the combination of Flair and Sherri's deviousness stole the match away from him. He has vowed revenge.



At times during the match, Sting appeared to have a good chance to become a four-time WCW World champion (above). However, Sherri—who was really working on Flair's behalf—fooled him.



RAZOR RAMON

"DIESEL IS A SMALL, SMALL MAN, MAN!"

HUMILITY WAS never one of Razor Ramon's strong suits. But these days, he's got a right to be cocky. The 10-year veteran finally won a major singles title last September 27, defeating Rick Martel for the vacant Intercontinental belt.

He has since lost it to Diesel in a controversial bout on April 13 in Rochester, New York. The feud between Ramon and Diesel (and cohort Shawn Michaels) remains among the hottest in the WWF. Three weeks before falling to Diesel, the "Bad Guy" successfully kept the belt against Michaels in a ladder match at WrestleMania X. Some call it the best WrestleMania match to date.

Until September of 1993, his biggest victory was in a tag team match: He joined forces with Curt Hennig to win the AWA World tag team title from Jim Garvin and Steve Regal. They held the belts for four months.

After his AWA stint, Ramon competed in Japan, Memphis, and WCW, but never accomplished much in any of those areas. Over the years, he's wrestled under many different names.

Razor entered the WWF as a rulebreaker in mid-1992, but



Razor Ramon respects Diesel's toughness. But the "Bad Guy" doubts the current Intercontinental champion could defeat him without having Shawn Michaels in his corner.

turned fan favorite last summer and is now one of the most popular athletes in the federation.

Senior Editor Bill Apter caught up with Ramon at the WWF Hall of Fame Induction dinner in Baltimore. "It was fitting I interviewed him on a night when we

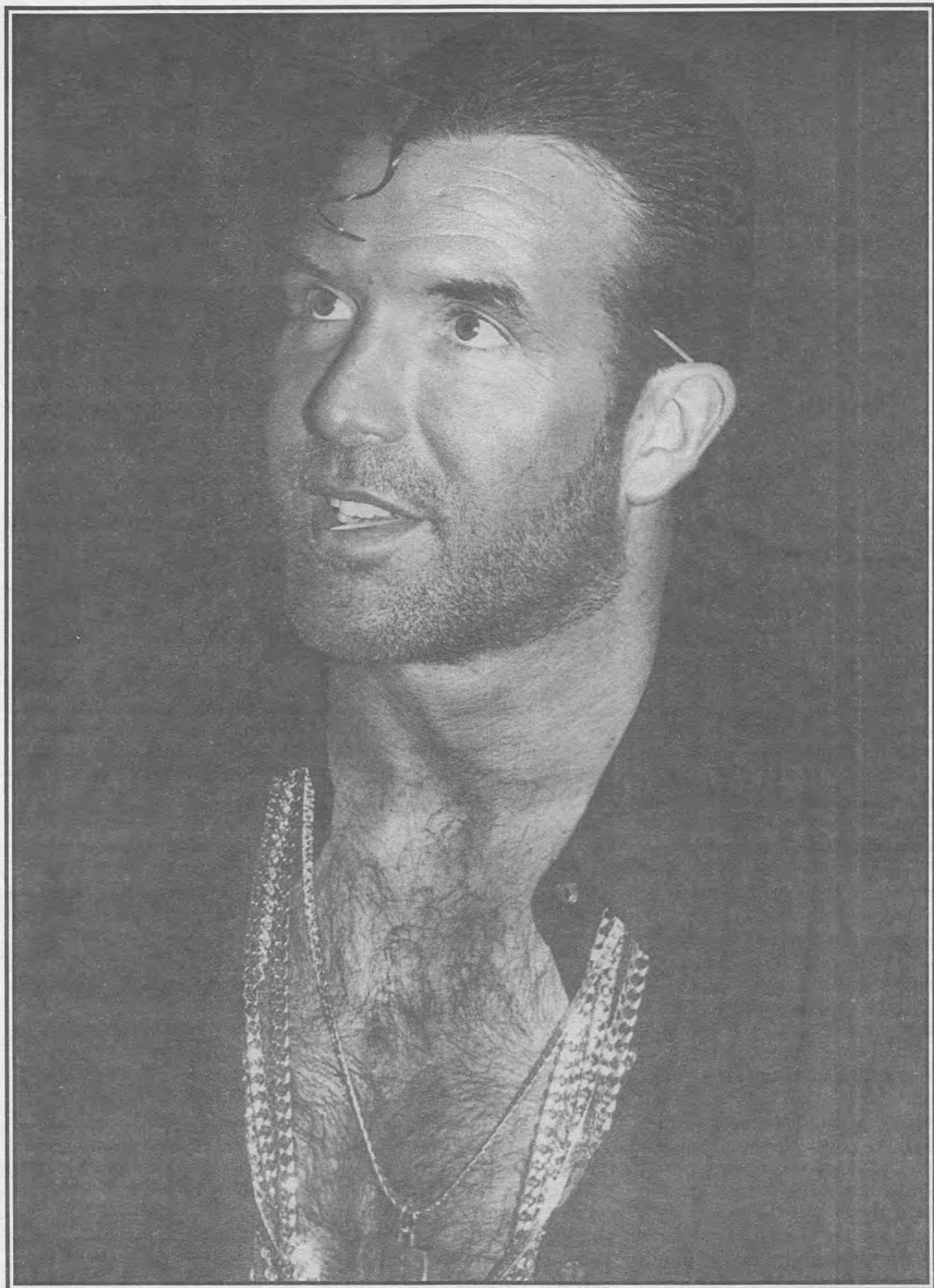
honored all the WWF legends," Apter reported. "The way Razor's going, I wouldn't be surprised if he were inducted 20 or 30 years from now."

Q: Razor, the big question is why haven't you been able to win the Intercontinental title back from Diesel?

A: I don't think Diesel can beat me one-on-one without Shawn Michaels in his corner. You saw what happened when he beat me, chico. He had to get his little friend Shawn to give him a hand. That sounds like two-on-one to me, man. I've had my chances since then, but it's the same story. Diesel is afraid to wrestle without someone to watch his back. Sometimes he needs to have Shawn interfere, other times it's Irwin R. Schyster. I tell you, Guillermo, he cannot escape the "Bad Guy" forever. I will wear the gold around my waist again. That is a promise, man!

Q: You have to admit that he is tough to beat even when he doesn't get any help. You don't often wrestle men who are bigger than you.

A: You are right about that,



but it is not the size of your body, it's the size of your heart. He is a few inches taller than me, but Diesel is a small, small man, man. He got no heart. I worked very hard to get where I am today, but Diesel, he always takes the shortcuts. He is a tough man, but he is not so tough when he don't have someone there to help him.

Q: Shawn Michaels once said you didn't deserve to wear the Intercontinental belt because you only won it in a tournament, after he was stripped of the belt by [WWF President] Jack Tunney.

A: Shawn Michaels has a big mouth. I shut his big mouth at WrestleMania.

Q: He told me it didn't matter who won that ladder match. He said the fact that you climbed a ladder before he did proved nothing.

A: That sounds like something he would say. It's just another one of his excuses. Shawn Michaels doesn't want to admit that the "Bad Guy" is the better man. If he won that match, he would be here telling you and everyone else who would listen to him that it was the greatest victory of his whole life. Because he lost, he wants everybody to forget about it.

Q: As I told Shawn, that ladder match is an early favorite to be voted Match of the Year by *PWI* readers. Can you tell us what it was like to be in a match that intense and exciting?

A: Let me tell you, chico, it was a great feeling. It was one of the best days of my life. Shawn Michaels caused a lot of pain for me that day, but I kept fighting back. It was WrestleMania. You know, the biggest day of the year in wrestling. I knew when the match started that there was no way I was going to let him win. I still have some aches and some pains from that day, but it was worth

it.

Q: Who do you hate more, Shawn or Diesel?

A: It does not matter, man. Anytime either one of them wants a piece of the "Bad Guy" in the ring, they know where to find me.

Q: Let's backtrack a little if we could. It was only about a year ago that you were one of the most



"I worked very hard to get where I am today, but Diesel, he always takes the shortcuts. He is a tough man, but he is not so tough when he don't have someone there to help him."

hated men in the WWF. Then came that very strange night on *Monday Night Raw* when you were upset by The Kid.

A: That was a very hard night for me. At that time, no one knew who this Kid was and he wasn't supposed to have a chance against someone as good as Razor Ramon. But I lost my concentration for a

while and he beat me. After that happened, man, I decided I needed to make a few changes.

Q: You mean you decided to become a fan favorite?

A: You can call it whatever you want, chico. All of a sudden, I was in a big feud with the taxman and Ted DiBiase. All the fans were cheering me and I didn't really know why. I heard them yelling my name and holding up signs for me and I started to like it. It helped me in some of my matches. I'm still the same Razor, man. I'm still the "Bad Guy" and I still ooze machismo, but it is nice to have the people on my side.

Q: And now you and Kid are on the same side ...

A: The Kid is a great athlete. He is going to have a long career and I am happy to help him any chance I get.

Q: If I remember correctly, he came to your defense one night on *Raw* when Michaels and Diesel were double-teaming you.

A: That's right. He's not very big for a wrestler, but he has a lot of guts—more guts than Michaels and Diesel put together. I think he has a very bright future.

Q: How difficult was it for you to adjust to being on the same side as guys like The Kid, Tatanka, Randy Savage, and some of the others you had really tough feuds with?

A: I respect them and they respect me now. It's as simple as that.

Q: Yes, but didn't it take some time before they could trust you and you could trust them?

A: Maybe you don't know this, 'cause you never been in the ring, but you cannot hold a grudge for too long in wrestling or you will have big problems, man. The bad things that happened between me and Tatanka and The Kid and Randy Savage are in the past. They were set-

tled a long time ago. They are not important now. If I need someone to watch my back—and that is not something that happens very often—I know I can count on Kid or Tatanka or any of my other friends.

Q: Let's talk a little bit about your future, Razor.

A: My future will be very bright. Be sure to print that in your magazine.

Q: I will. But I'd appreciate it if

ing Bret? You did wrestle him before, during his first reign.

A: First of all, Bill Apter, I will regain the Intercontinental title. You can tell Diesel I said that. Tell him this is my official warning to him. Now, you ask if the "Bad Guy" wants a shot at the WWF title? Of course I do. Everybody wants to win a world title. Bret Hart is a great champion. He doesn't back down from no one. It would be an

honor to wrestle him again.

Q: Do you think you could beat him?

A: I can beat anyone, man. I'm not afraid of no one. If the "Hitman" wants a piece of the "Bad Guy," I am ready for him anytime. He is my friend, but if the title is on the line, you don't have no friends. You got to wrestle for yourself and nobody else. If you ask Bret, I think he will tell you the same thing.

Q: I remember when Bret beat you by *submission* to the "sharp-shooter" leglock at the 1993 Royal Rumble.

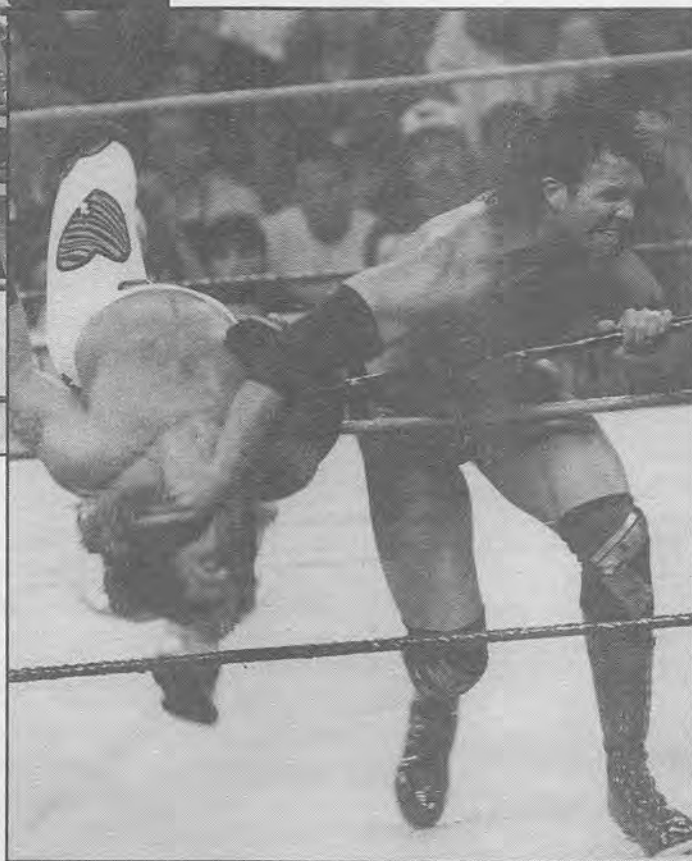
A: Bill Apter, that was a different Razor Ramon. I'm not the same man now. I don't think about the past. I am wrestling at my best and I will only get better.

Q: Razor, thanks for your time and good luck in the future.

A: I won't be needing no luck, chico. □



Ramon calls his ladder match victory over Michaels at WrestleMania X "one of the best days of my life" (left). While he suffered some aches and pains from Michaels that day, he handed out some punishment too (below).



you'd let me ask my question.

A: You ask the question, I give the answer. That's why we're here.

Q: I know you want to regain the Intercontinental belt, but several of the WWF's all-time greats, specifically The Ultimate Warrior, Randy Savage, and Bret Hart have held the Intercontinental belt, then went on to win the World title. Have you thought about challeng-

The WWF's Hottest

CRUSH & CORNETTE

They're friends now, but how long will it last? There are undercurrents that Jim Cornette, once Yokozuna's most valuable ally, could become his enemy—and take Crush with him



Brewing Feud:

VS. YOKOZUNA & FUJI

By Dave Rosenbaum

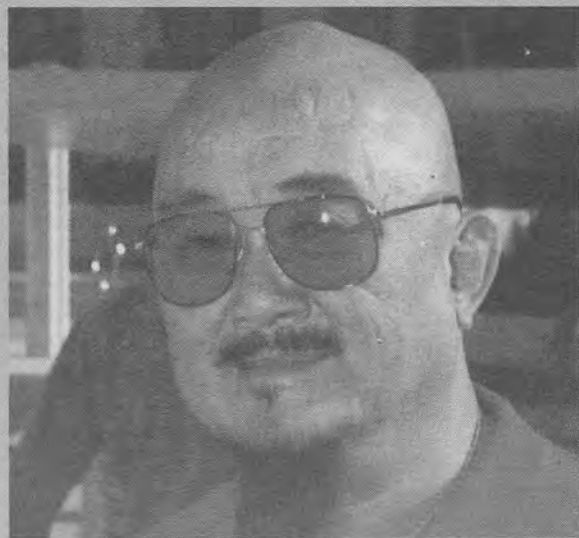
JUST ONE LOOK tells you Crush isn't a man who likes being taken for a ride. Just ask Randy Savage, who learned firsthand what happens when you cross Crush. He's still learning.

Crush could soon offer a new course in revenge. His potential students? Yokozuna and Mr. Fuji. The sumo star and his manager have been taking advantage of Crush, but that could soon change.

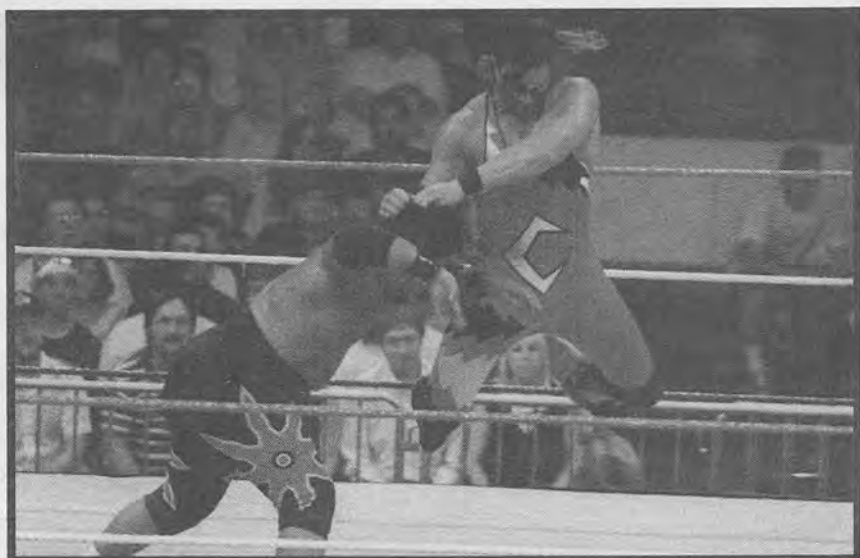
It was only a little more than a year ago on *WWF Monday Night Raw* when Yokozuna, then the WWF World champion, crushed Crush and put him out of action for several months. At the time, Crush was one of the most popular wrestlers in the world and his quick climb to the top was blocked by Yokozuna in frightening fashion.

Fast-forward less than a year to the 1994 King of the Ring pay-per-view and you'll find Crush and Yokozuna going after the World tag team title held by The Headshrinkers. It is an unlikely combination and with Fuji at ringside, anything can happen. Lex Luger happened and a distracted Crush was pinned.

According to insiders, in the ensuing weeks, Crush came to the conclusion he had become Yoko-



Crush tries to bring down Fatu during tag team action from King of the Ring. Some insiders say that after this pay-per-view, Crush came to the conclusion that Yokozuna and Mr. Fuji had sold him a bill of goods.



zuna's tool. His alliance with the sumo star was purely unnatural.

But that's not all. At about the same time, Jim Cornette realized he wasn't being compensated properly for his services to Yokozuna and Fuji. After all, wasn't Cornette the man who kept Yokozuna from having to face Luger between SummerSlam '93 and WrestleMania X?

"Every time Cornette asked to be paid, Fuji treated him to dinner at a Japanese steakhouse," said a locker room attendant who requested to remain anonymous. "By now, Jim probably has lost his

yen for teriyaki, but he still has a yen for yen."

Anyone who has followed Cornette's career had to be stunned when he came to the aid of Yokozuna and Fuji. He's always been a one-man band, and sharing anything with another manager has never appealed to him.

"If Cornette and Crush are both upset, they should probably break away from Yokozuna and Fuji," WWF expert Thomas Pilliard said. "It's not that either camp is leaning toward becoming a fan favorite. I don't sense that at all. Rule-breakers can certainly feud among themselves."

With Crush growing more and more impatient and the relationship between Cornette and Fuji straining to the limits, a Crush vs. Yokozuna feud becomes a distinct possibility. It wouldn't have the luster it could if Yokozuna was World champion. But Cornette has made champions out of lesser men than Crush ... and men with less to prove.

For his part, Cornette denies there's a rift between he and Fuji. But is this statement issued only for public consumption?

A feud would thrive because Fuji and Cornette are among wrestling's elite managers. Both are known for their conniving ways, and it's been said Cornette

Yokozuna attempts to withstand both Headshrinkers. He relied on the help of Jim Cornette during much of his World title reign, but Fuji's rumored reluctance to compensate Cornette may lead to his leaving their camp.



is the only man better than Fuji at negotiating a contract (although Fuji would certainly dispute that).

After all, wasn't it Cornette who got The Heavenly Bodies a Smoky Mountain tag team title shot on a WWF pay-per-view event? It never happened before and hasn't happened since.

"Cornette can do it all," said Bobby Eaton, a former client. "I wouldn't be surprised to see Cornette try to position things so Yokozuna wins the World title from [Bret] Hart and Crush is first in line for a title shot. That's how Cornette works. He convinces people to do things they don't want to do. Look at what happened in SMW. He became the damn commissioner, for heaven's sake!"

Only The Rock 'n' Roll Express could distract Cornette at this point. He is known for putting everything he has into every feud. Just ask the Rock 'n' Rolls, or Luger for that matter.

As for Crush, we only need examine his feud with Savage to decide whether he's singleminded with a purpose. Even when Savage hung him upside down in a back room of Madison Square Garden at WrestleMania X, Crush

fought on. He is not a good rival for anyone to have. If a smart man knows when to quit, don't call Crush a genius.

Fuji could be considered a kamikaze pilot, with Yokozuna his plane. He'll fight to the bitter end, even when defeat is the only possible conclusion. The potential for violence in this feud would be fueled by both sides.

Should the falling-out occur and become visible, we can look forward to a fascinating new rivalry in the WWF. With mass, muscle, and genius on both sides, this one could be worth watching. □



Could Crush soon be trying to do this to Yokozuna, rather than Fatu? It's entirely possible. Last summer, Yokozuna gave Crush a severe beating on WWF Monday Night Raw before they joined forces.

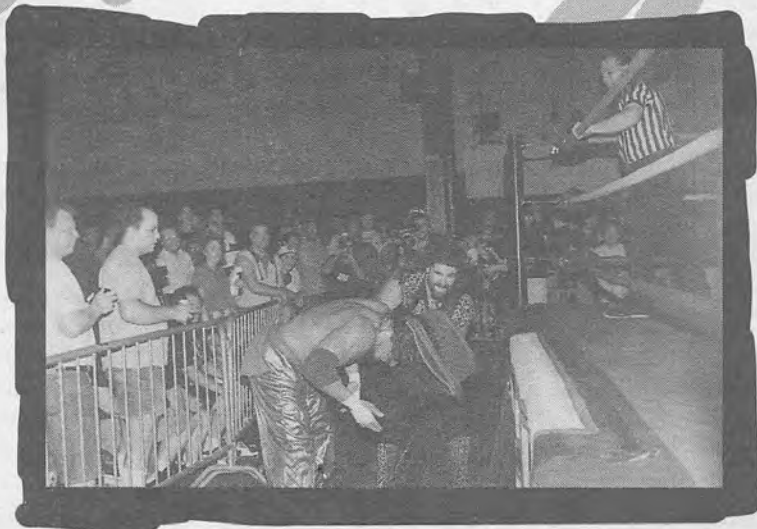


This picture almost makes it appear The Headshrinkers are standing in the way of a bout between Yokozuna and Crush. Actually, the middlemen could be two of the WWF's top managers, Cornette and Fuji.

CACTUS JACK VS. SABU: HARDCORE HEAVEN!

Photos by Jason Ross Lavin

They didn't come to see a wrestling match, they came to see an all-out suicidal brawl. That's what they expected when Cactus Jack and Sabu were in town, and that's what they got—and a whole lot more!



Philadelphia's hardcore fans got the action they wanted from this match. They loved seeing Cactus Jack batter Sabu with a metal chair (above); they were equally delighted when Sabu sat Cactus on a chair outside the ring, then dove onto him (left).



By Andy Rodriguez

BLACK TEES AND torn jeans, bottles concealed in brown paper bags, Pantera blasting from car stereos. It was a Philly crowd, an ECW crowd.

"Big match tonight, huh?" one kid was asked.

"Get outta my face!" he shot back.

These fans—these hardcore fans—waiting to see Cactus Jack

To turn a cliché inside out, Cactus can not only take it, but he can also dish it out. The New Mexican maniac batters Sabu with part of a broken table.

take on Sabu at Philadelphia's ECW Arena, were in a nasty mood. They hadn't paid their money to have a good time. They came to see a fight.

Cactus Jack and Sabu intended to oblige them.

"Sabu is gonna get hurt tonight, man, really hurt," said Jack, his face contorted by his desire to inflict pain. "I don't like that kid at all. He's evil, man. He thinks he's some kind of acrobat? Well, I'm

gonna bring him down to earth!"

Speaking for Sabu was his adviser, Paul E. Dangerously.

"Cactus losing half his ear is mild compared to what we have planned," Dangerously dared. "Sabu doesn't need his concentration broken by talking to the press. He needs to focus on this match totally. Jack's as tough as they come, we don't deny that. But after tonight, he's going to be wishing he were still wandering around thinking he was a sailor!"

It was the kind of talk that excited the hardcore crowd. They couldn't be bothered by the preliminary bouts, although one particularly nasty match, Terry and Dory Funk Jr. vs. Public Enemy, provided some bloody surprises. Still, this crowd was here for one match, and one match only.

"Cac-tus! Cac-tus!" they chanted. "Sa-boo! Sa-boo!"

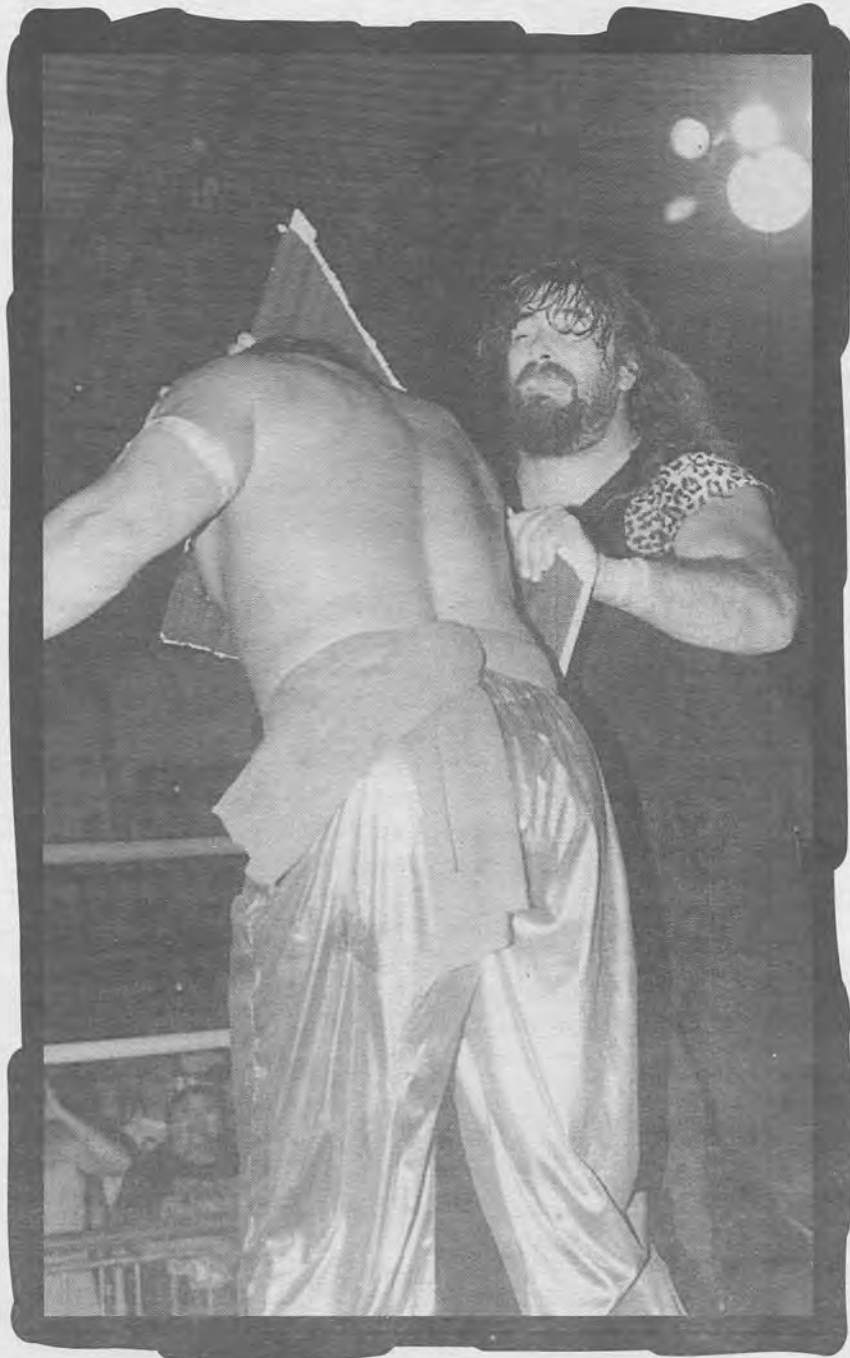
The chants intensified when the combatants were introduced. Sabu was accompanied by Dangerously and his hired thug, 911. Jack came to the ring alone. Different philosophies, same goal.

But the hardcores were disappointed when Jack and Sabu began by displaying their technical prowess. Sabu's suplexes in particular were masterful, but they weren't what most of the people wanted.

"I didn't come here to see this [stuff]!" scoffed one guy to his buddy. "Any more of this and I'm outta here!"

About 10 seconds later, the man got what he wanted. Sabu and Jack were brawling outside the ring when Sabu picked up a chair and clobbered Cactus with it. Then Sabu showed why he's one of the most dangerous wrestlers in the world. Back in the ring, he seated Cactus, who still was dazed, in a chair, and dove onto him. It was high-five time for the hardcores.

It also was time for Cactus to go on the offensive. He recovered





Yes, that's a frying pan Jack is slamming onto Sabu's back. It was brought by a hardcore fan who gave it to Cactus at ringside. Despite the punishment, Sabu was able to continue brawling.

quickly, clotheslining Sabu over the top rope and smashing him with a chair. Then he got some help from one of the hardcores. This particular gentleman carried with him a frying pan. Strange, but for that match on that night, somehow it made sense that somebody in the stands would be carrying a frying pan.

Cactus smashed Sabu in the back with the pan. As forceful as the blow was, it didn't stop Sabu from battling through the seats with Jack. In fact, Sabu grew even *more* maniacal.

After he stretched out Jack on a press table, Sabu climbed onto the ring apron and came down on him with a legdrop that was so powerful it shattered the table. Imagine what it did to Jack.

By this time, 911 had begun interfering on Sabu's behalf.

Though victim of a two-on-one, Cactus displayed the resiliency that has made him a legend among the hardcores. When Sabu propped him up on a second table—outside the ring barrier!—and tried to blast him with a moon-sault—from the second rope!—Jack moved out of the way in time to avoid the blow. Sabu destroyed another table, but on this attempt he hurt himself more than he hurt his opponent.

For Jack, one-against-two was fair odds, but one-against-three was too much. Sabu officially ended the amazing contest when he pinned Jack after Dangerously smacked Cactus on the head with his cellular phone.

That ended it ... officially. But there was plenty more mayhem to come. Jack and Sabu started brawling by the concession

stands. Cactus walloped Sabu with a full garbage can. From the spilled trash, Sabu picked out a bottle, which he promptly smashed into pieces over Cactus' head.

As Jack lay there bloodied, Sabu rained on him with a moonsault. It didn't bother Sabu that the floor was covered with broken glass. It didn't bother the hardcores, either. This was why they had come.

"With Jack and Sabu, you don't need a ref," said one fan from South Philadelphia. "You don't even need a ring. A lot of people think a match like this is too violent, but this is what we live for. This is what wrestling is supposed to be, not that boring amateur crap!"

"I feel kinda bad for Jack," said another hardcore. "Looks like he got hurt pretty bad. But he expects it, and you know that next time he'll give as good as he got."

The fans were celebrating because they had seen what was, in their view, a classic. But Jack wasn't partying with them.

"I let him get off too easy," Jack said as a doctor sewed stitches into his head. "Next time I have to bring somebody to the ring with me. That, or next time it's me and him, one-on-one."

Dangerously was much happier.

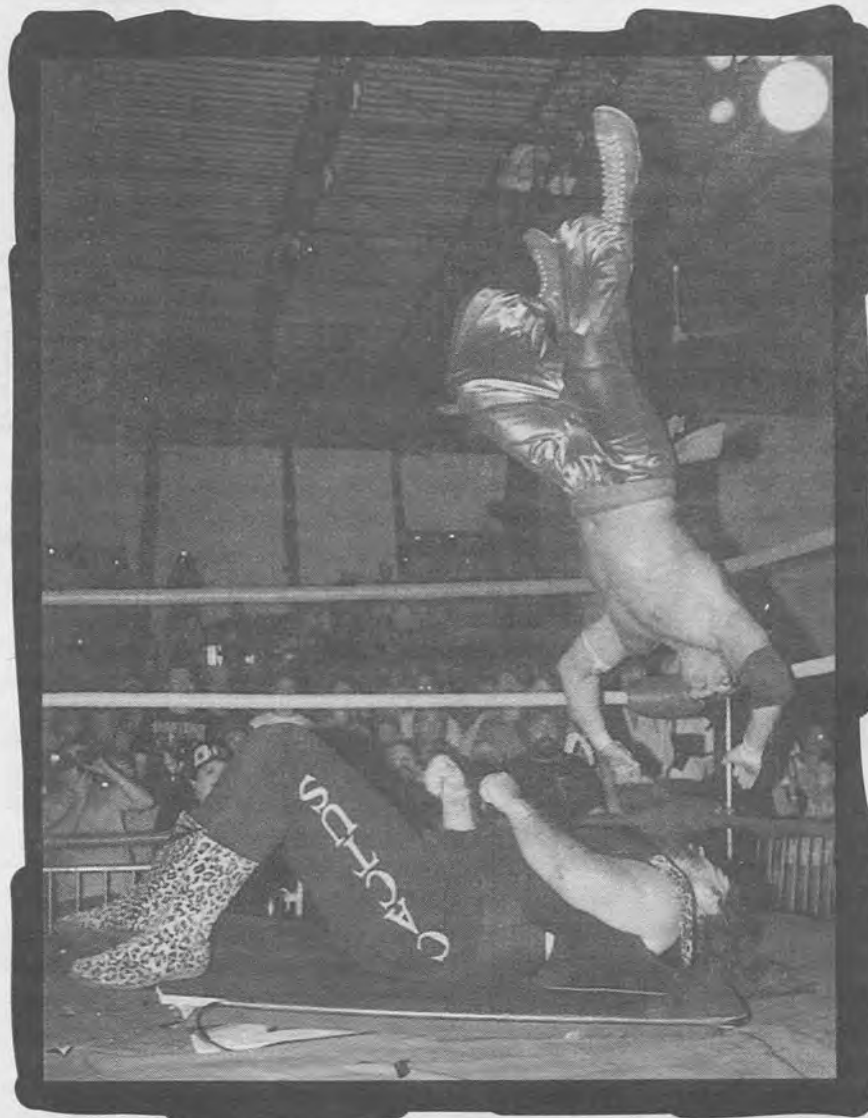
"Tonight, Sabu proved his greatness," the manager said. "He made Jack look like a coward. The guy is positively scary."

A fan who was straggling in the parking lot—and proudly carrying a piece of one of the broken tables—was informed of Jack and Paul E.'s comments.

"Like I care," he said.

In hardcore heaven, the match is all that matters. □

Sabu legdropped a dazed Cactus, shattering a press table (top), but still had more mayhem left in his repertoire. What next? One of several moonsaults, of course, before an awed crowd (right).



The telephone wires sizzle each month, as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. Here's the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to feel the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off ... One On One

ONE ON ONE

TWO MEN HAVE symbolized wrestling for approximately the past dozen years: Ric Flair and Hulk Hogan. Both are multiple world champions, have always been wrestlers fans enjoy watching, and would rate high on anyone's list of the sport's all-time greats.

But who is better? Fans have debated this question for more than a decade, ever since Hogan won the WWF World title while Flair was ruling the rival NWA. During the mid-1980s, Hogan became an international megastar, while all Ric Flair did was hold the top spot in ratings for 31 consecutive months.

The arguments could have ended when Flair joined the WWF in 1991, but while he often wrestled Hogan there, nothing was really resolved.

This time, it's different. Hogan's on Flair's WCW turf. The "Nature Boy" is the insider, the champion, the embodiment of wrestling in Ted Turner's federation. The "Hulkster" is the interloper, but WCW is counting on his national name recognition to give it the high profile it has lacked in recent years. Nevertheless, his WWF baggage makes Hogan anathema to many longtime WCW supporters.

Two elite wrestlers, ready to settle wrestling fans' number-one question once and for all. Ready to battle each other, not only physically but verbally ... "One On One."

RIC FLAIR: Well, Hulk, welcome to the home of real wrestling.



"You're wearing the gray road jersey here, Hulk. WCW is my home turf—I've got on the pinstripes, and have the last at-bat."

—Ric Flair

Hope you don't find it too tough.

HULK HOGAN: Glad to be here, Ric, but don't take me lightly. Not when I have the power of millions of "Hulkamaniacs."

RF: A lot of good that'll do you when you find yourself in my figure-four leglock.

HH: A lot of good Sherri will do you, brother. I've known that woman for years and years, and she can't be trusted. What she did to Sting she could do to you.

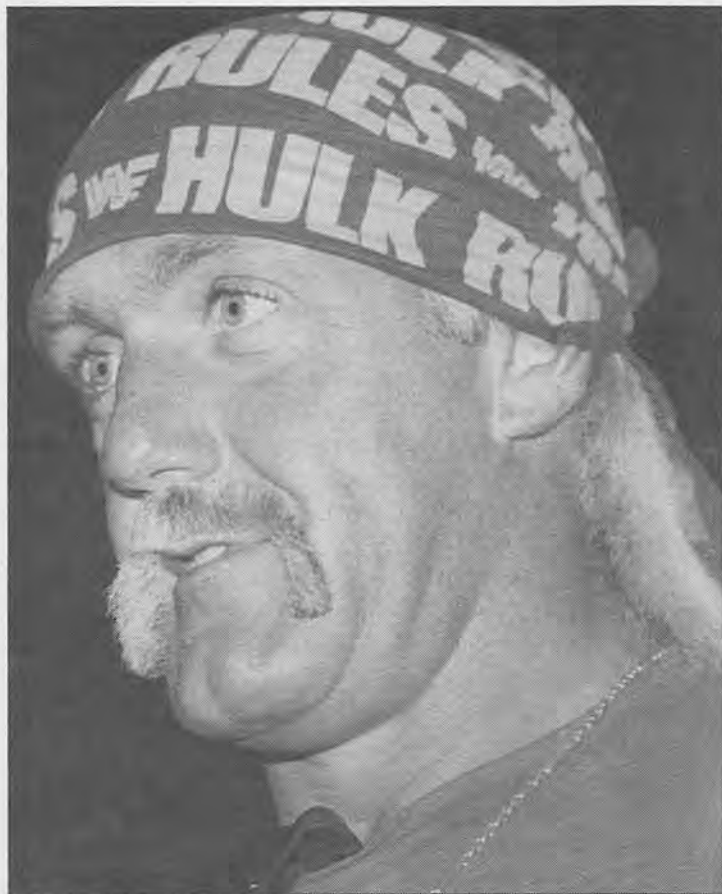
RF: Don't bet on it, Hogan.

Sherri's known to consort exclusively with winners, so why should she leave the side of wrestling's ultimate winner—me? Anyway, I'd rather be associated with Sherri than that Jimmy Hart.

HH: Jimmy's done plenty for me, "Nature Boy." He works hard on my behalf. You know that, too. Remember when we met you last year when you opened your gym in Charlotte?

RF: Sure. We talked about possibilities, and even about forming a tag

N ONE



"That'll all change. I have a lot of 'Hulkamaniacs' here, and they'll grow in number now that people can witness the feeling live!"

—Hulk Hogan

team. What was I thinking at the time?

HH: Deep down inside, you probably wondered what it'd be like to have "Hulkamania" as an ally, not an enemy. To be able to hear cheers consistently ...

RF: Hogan, I beg to differ. Let me remind you that you're wearing the gray road jersey here, Hulk. WCW is my home turf—I've got on the pin-stripes, and have the last at-bat.

HH: Understood, brother, but that'll all change. I have a lot of

"Hulkamaniacs" here, and they'll grow in number now that people can witness the feeling live!

RF: Some feeling, "Hulkster." There is simply no way you will ever replace me in the hearts of WCW fans.

HH: You're an institution with them, and you've earned it. But good people follow good people, and sooner or later they're gonna learn what you're all about, brother. I've always treated people with respect, and they've treated me with respect in return.

RF: You should be respected for what you've accomplished, Hogan, I grant you that. But the road stops here.

HH: Funny, brother, but I feel the same about you. I can't deny your place in wrestling history—but I can deny you a spot above me.

RF: We'll see about that, Hogan, we'll see. *(Pauses.)* It's different than last time, isn't it?

HH: I bet you hope so, Ric. Remember, I won most of those matches.

RF: Didn't mean a thing, and you know it. Countouts, disqualifications, outside interference. We both know that the only way to settle this is man to man. If you pin my shoulders to the canvas or make me quit, I'll shake your hand. But it's not gonna happen, pal.

HH: Don't ever doubt the power of millions of "Hulkamaniacs," brother. It's a force unlike anything you've ever faced. Tougher than Vader, Sting, and Rick Steamboat combined.

RF: It's good we're finally resolving this after all these years. I can remember eight or nine years ago, when I was dominating the NWA, and people would ask me how I'd do against Hogan. I'd cite the *INSIDE WRESTLING* ratings, where I was on top for an eternity. You got all the ink, but that really didn't bother me at all. I knew in my heart I was a wrestler's wrestler, and that was enough to satisfy me.

HH: And that's one of the reasons I'm here in WCW, brother. I had fame and fortune for years and years, but I think all that flash I was associated with may have blinded many people to what I could do in the ring. I have plenty of wrestling skill, and if anyone needs proof, look what I've done on my visits to Japan, beating all those great stars.

RF: I've never questioned your ability, Hogan. I simply question whether it's up to my level. *Whoooooo!*

HH: And that's what we're wrestling for, brother. □

Sincerely Yours

(Continued from page 5)

Once Ted gets the green light to wrestle again, perhaps he'll set his managerial career aside. We can only hope so.

MAUREEN MARTIN
Mineola, NY

ZUPERB ZBYSZKO

I've been very impressed by Larry Zbyszko's comeback. I don't think that many people gave him a chance against Lord Steven Regal. The "Legend" sent Lord Steven to "Larry Land" without the TV belt. I'm sure Larry Z. will continue to dominate the competition in WCW.

MIKE ELIAS
East Providence, RI

LOLLAPA-LUNA

While I don't like the way Luna Vachon looks, talks, or acts, I do admire the way she wrestles. She goes all-out in every match, and is a worthy heir to the Vachon wrestling legacy. "Hotseat" only confirmed my respect for her intensity

("Bam Bam And I Will Rule The WWF," September 1994).

While she hasn't yet been able to wrest the WWF World Women's title from Alundra Blayze, her day will eventually come—whether you like it or not. And yes, I would like to see her wrestle Tonya Harding. We know Nancy Kerrigan would be rooting for Luna.

VICTOR SAWYER
Watertown, NY

OFF-KEY, CORNETTE

Jim Cornette is an accomplished manager. But compared to Capt. Lou Albano, he's a neophyte, not to mention an ingrate. That's obvious from their "One On One" debate (September 1994). The Captain has won as both a rulebreaker and fan favorite, and has long been one of wrestling's most popular personalities. Who is Cornette popular with, other than his wealthy mother?

During the conversation, Albano suggested that Cornette try managing as a fan favorite. I'd sooner expect to see Dudley Moore take over Arnold Schwar-

zenegger's next movie role.

I speak for many WWF fans when I say that I hope Albano's Headshrinkers and Cornette's Heavenly Bodies wrestle each other regularly. We all want to see the Captain make Jimbo look like the fool he really is.

ALISON BUSH
Brea, CA

SABU RULES

I just saw Sabu wrestle for the first time, and everything written about him is true. I'm in awe of this man's moves, even though he lost a ladder match to Chris Candido in San Jose for the first California Championship Wrestling title.

Sabu has incredible talent and unbelievable determination. He really wowed the crowd, and even did four moonsaults on a table after the match!

If Sabu is appearing on a card in your area, drop everything and attend. Watching him wrestle is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

KEVIN MACGOWEN
Union City, CA □

COMPUTER WRESTLING

IBM PC

RAMPAGE WRESTLING

Over 400 professional wrestler's from the past and present • Singles matches, tag team, 3 man tag, rumbles - with up to 30 men in the ring at once, cage matches, war matches, or create your own style of match • Add wrestler's, rate yourself and your friends!

ORDER TODAY! Mail check or money order for \$39.95 each.

You may call in and order with VISA or Master Card.

Please add \$3.00 for shipping and handling.

For more information, call or write for a free brochure.

1-800-477-7032

LANCE HAFFNER GAMES

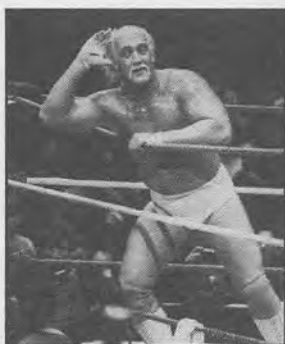
P.O. BOX 100594 • NASHVILLE, TN 37224



Sabu's breakneck style, long popular on the independent circuit, has earned him a new fan in Kevin MacGowen.

This Month In...

THE **Wrestler**



HULK HOGAN'S new commandments:
Say prayers ... take vitamins ... and *kick butt!*



WWF king or WWF champ:
Which **HART** beats stronger?

PLUS ...
JERRY "THE KING" LAWLER'S

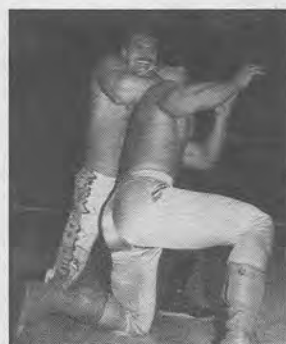
book of insults! ...

JOHNNY be too nice: For **BADD** to be good,
he's gotta get mad! ... Great action in Global!

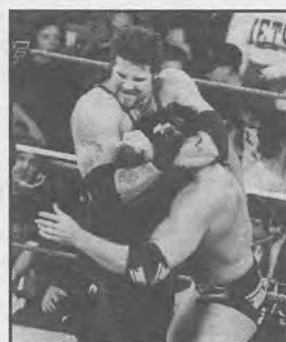
The heart of Texas wrestling is still beating—
with a vengeance! ... An exclusive "Q & A" with
WCW TV champion **LORD STEVEN REGAL** ...
Introducing **MIKEY WHIPWRECK**

All this—and much more!—in the November
1994 issue of **The Wrestler**

NOW ON SALE!



Is **RICK RUDE** the next threat
to **BRET HART**?



Is **DIESEL** embarrassing the WWF
with his success?

PLUS ...
The battle to be last in the "PWI 500" ... Now it
can be told: **HULK HOGAN** is terrified of **BIG VAN**
VADER ... "The Snake" scalped! Hair's to you,
JAKE ROBERTS! ... **JEFF JARRETT**: "I love
JERRY LAWLER, I hate **JERRY LAWLER!**" ...
CAPT. LOU ALBANO'S diet secret revealed! ...
How **BOSSMAN** earned his **GUARDIAN**
ANGEL wings!

All this—and much more!—in the November
1994 issue of **Sports Review Wrestling**

NOW ON SALE!

Behind the Door

(Continued from page 12)



Sting was able to handle Razor Ramon when he competed in WCW, and would be able to do so today, in Rosenbaum's view. In fact, our columnist gives a huge edge to top-10 WCW wrestlers vs. their WWF counterparts.

golden opportunity. But I'm still waiting to see how this plays out.

A look at WCW's champion and Top 10 from *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly* during the first week of July showed these names: Ric Flair, Steve Austin, Lord Steven Regal, Sting, Johnny B. Badd, Larry Zbyszko, Big Van Vader, The Guardian Angel (Big Bossman), Dustin Rhodes, Brian Pillman, and Arn Anderson.

WWF countered with the following: Bret Hart, Diesel, Owen Hart, Razor Ramon, Lex Luger, Irwin R. Schyster, Tatanka, Jeff Jarrett, Yokozuna, The Kid, and Typhoon.

Taken head-to-head, Flair would beat Bret Hart; Austin would defeat Diesel; Owen Hart would conquer Regal; Sting would top Ramon; Luger would beat Badd; IRS would defeat Zbyszko; Vader would cream Tatanka; Angel would conquer Jarrett; Rhodes would beat Yokozuna;

Pillman would defeat Kid; and Anderson would beat Typhoon. That's 8-3 for WCW.

The Top 20 is in for the "PWI 500." Eight of the 20 wrestlers are under contract to WCW, while seven are in the WWF and another is associated with the federation. (The complete list will be in the December 1994 special edition of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, on sale September 6.)

Marketing is the key here, and WCW did the right thing by scheduling Hogan vs. Flair as quickly as possible. It could have waited and drawn out the tension, but I think people would have lost interest. They wanted Hogan vs. Flair immediately, on a pay-per-view event, and they got it.

Meanwhile, Vince McMahon is on trial and his federation is getting weaker every day.

I'm not sure WCW will assert itself into the position of power,

but it might inherit the top spot.

A few days after soccer player Andres Escobar was murdered in Colombia, midfielder Samson Siasia of Nigeria had this to say about his unpopular coach, Clemens Westerhof. (Nigeria was eliminated in the round of 16 in the World Cup.)

"I would believe he would come back to Nigeria to get some of his things," Siasia said. "I pray he is lucky, because if he is not and the people get him, they will deal with him in the way he would never be able to describe."

Was Siasia suggesting the fans might kill Westerhof? That's what it sounded like.

More proof that sports fans in the U.S. and Canada are saner than fans in any other part of the world. And I'd take one Rick Rude or Deion Sanders for every 10 Samson Siasias. □

VOTED
#1

ALL NEW & IMPROVED!

Rock n Roll

HOTLINE

- ★ ADVANCE TOUR SCHEDULES!
- ★ MAILING ADDRESSES!
- ★ PHONE #'S FOR BEST TICKETS!
- ★ FAST AND EASY!

- ★ CONCERT LISTINGS BY AREA!
- ★ THE LATEST NEWS & UPDATES!
- ★ UPDATED WEEKLY / 24 HOURS!
- ★ NEW! SAMPLE HOT NEW MUSIC!

Code	Artist						
8361	10,000 Maniacs	2723	Cranberries	4683	Hothouse Flowers	9682	Neil Young
4661	4 Non Blondes	2761	Crosby, Stills, Nash	4631	Indigo Girls	6352	Nelson
2231	AC/DC	2765	Crowded House	4691	INXS	6393	New Order
2371	Aerosmith	2791	Cry of Love	2768	Jackson Browne	6461	Nine Inch Nails
6261	Aimee Mann	2853	The Cult	5224	Jackyl	6471	Nirvana
2664	Alice Cooper	2871	The Cure	8291	James Taylor	6722	NRBQ
2541	Alice in Chains	3261	Damn Yankees	5261	Jane's Addiction	6723	Ozzy Osbourne
2551	Allman Bros.	3262	Danger Danger	4272	Jerry Garcia Band	7263	Pantera
2681	Anthrax	3265	Danzig	5371	Jesus Jones	7692	Patty Smyth
2527	B-52s	2691	David Bowie	5385	Jethro Tull	7463	Paul Simon
2233	Bad Company	7681	David Lee Roth	2831	Jimmy Buffett	6221	Paul McCartney
2323	Beatles	3332	Deep Purple	7282	Joe Satriani	9373	Paul Westerberg
2325	Beck	3331	Def Leppard	6351	John Mellencamp	7321	Pearl Jam
2352	Belly	3371	Depeche Mode	5831	Judas Priest	4221	Peter Gabriel
2381	Beverly Hills 90210	3461	Dinosaur Jr.	4282	Juliana Hatfield	3722	Peter Dinklage
2444	Big Head Todd/Monsters	3462	Dio	5262	Kansas	7441	Phish
4361	Billy Idol	3472	Dire Straits	5461	King's X	7462	Pink Floyd
5632	Billy Joel	3733	Dream Theater	5462	The Kinks	7641	Poison
2524	Black Sabbath	3871	Duran Duran	5472	KISS	7671	Porno For Pyros
2523	Black Crowes	3242	The Eagles	5332	Led Zeppelin	7745	Primus
2544	Blind Melon	2741	Edie Brickell	5366	Lemonheads	7762	Prong
3951	Bob Dylan	5641	Elton John	5721	Lenny Kravitz	1831	Queen
2661	Bon Jovi	3681	Enuff Z'nuff	5451	Lillian Axe	1832	Queensryche
2662	Bonham	5642	Eric Johnson	3671	Lita Ford	7363	R.E.M.
2731	Breeders	2525	Eric Clapton	5484	LIVE	7232	Radiohead
2769	Brother Cane	3981	Extreme	5962	Lynch Mob	7265	Ramones
4673	Bruce Hornsby	3241	Faith No More	7931	Matthew Sweet	7283	RATT
7771	Bruce Springsteen	3442	Fight	6322	Meat Loaf	7332	Red Hot Chili Peppers
2321	Bryan Adams	3471	Firehouse	6241	Megadeth	6273	Richard Marx
2852	Bulletboys	3531	Fleetwood Mac	3841	Melissa Etheridge	7521	Robert Plant
2881	Butthole Surfers	3673	Foreigner	6382	Metallica	7832	Rod Stewart
9433	Catherine Wheel	4362	Genesis	2651	Michael Bolton	7651	Rolling Stones
9431	Cheryl Wheeler	8462	George Thorogood	6431	Midnight Oil	7652	Rollins Band
2461	Cinderella	4461	Gin Blossoms	6443	Mighty M. Bosstones	7871	Rush
2656	Collective Soul	4721	Grateful Dead	6463	Ministry	7223	Sacred Reich
2663	Concrete Blonde	4731	Great White	6252	Mitch Malloy	7261	Santana
2671	Elvis Costello	4737	Green Day	6672	Morrissey	7374	Sepultura
2683	Counting Crows	4735	Green Jelly	6682	Motley Crue	6262	Sinead O'Connor
2682	Coverdale/Page	4861	Guns N' Roses	6681	Motorhead	7541	Skid Row
2693	Cowboy Junkies	4274	Hardline	6721	Mr. Big	7523	Slaughter
2726	Cracker	4321	Heart	6331	Ned's Atomic Dustbin	7524	Slayer
						7621	Smashing Pumpkins
						7643	Smithereens
						7661	Sonic Youth
						7683	Soul Asylum
						7682	SoundGarden
						7746	Spin Doctors
						7181	Squeeze
						8242	Steve Vai
						6421	Stevie Nicks
						7842	Sting
						7863	Stone Temple Pilots
						7834	Suede
						7841	Suicidal Tendencies
						7862	Sundays
						8341	Suzanne Vega
						8251	Talking Heads
						8321	Tears For Fears
						6841	Ted Nugent
						8371	Tesla
						8372	Testament
						8432	The The
						7381	Tom Petty
						2622	Tom Cochrane
						8662	Tool
						8741	Trixxter Fan Club
						8221	U2
						8241	UB40
						8451	Ugly Kid Joe
						8743	Urge Overkill
						8262	Van Halen
						6341	Vince Neil
						8461	Violent Femmes
						9271	W.A.S.P.
						9272	Warrant
						9441	White Zombie
						9463	The Who
						9454	Wilson Phillips
						9671	World Party
						9371	Yes
						6251	Yngwie Malmsteen
						1181	ZZ Top

PLUS...OVER 500 MORE! (If your favorite group is not listed here, just press or say the numbers on your phone that contain the first 3 letters of the group, or artist's last name (i.e. BON Jovi = 266, Bryan ADams = 232).

CALL
NOW!

1-800-721-2263

\$2.99/min. Under 18 get parent's permission. Avg. call 3 min.

OR TRY 1-900-454-7700 EXT 99

\$2.99/min. Under 18 get parent's permission. Avg. call 3 min.

CONCERT CONNECTION, LTD., DRESHER PA, 19025

**Did you ever think about how
YOU could get in Pro Wrestling?**

Maybe as a wrestler, valet or manager?
Or even in a non-wrestling position?

**OR DO YOU WANT TO FIND OUT
MORE ABOUT WRESTLING?**

Now YOU can find out what you need to know to enter the exciting world of Pro Wrestling! This very insightful book is written by two professionals in the wrestling business, who between them have worked for every major wrestling association in this country including the NWA, WCW and the WWF! You are advised what to do, where to write, how to act, how to get various jobs and what your chances are, and how to better those odds! This book explains things about wrestling you never knew, but need to know. • Details over 50 different jobs possible in wrestling • Lists addresses of all U.S. promotions and wrestling schools • Tells where to order boots, tights, etc. in the U.S. & U.K.

Updated 1994 Edition Now Shipping!

**Inside Secrets on How YOU
Can Enter The Exciting
World of Pro Wrestling!**

Price of book is only \$15, including postage.
Add \$5 for outside U.S. Send cashier's check,
money order or cash for immediate shipment!

PRO WRESTLING CAREER BOOK

2770 Lenox Rd. NE, Ste. 200 • Atlanta, GA 30324

On The Road

(Continued from page 10)



Sting should consider joining the WWF, as Flair did three years ago. The WWF could use him to bolster its depleted talent roster—and perhaps lure some WCW fans over to its side.

MOVING?

**Kindly give us 8 weeks
advance notice**

Are you moving? If so, please give us 8 weeks advance notice so we can continue to service your subscription promptly. Check the magazine(s) listed below you subscribe to:

- ☐ PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED
☐ THE WRESTLER
☐ INSIDE WRESTLING
☐ SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING
☐ WRESTLING SUPERSTARS/
WRESTLING 94
☐ PWI WEEKLY

NAME _____

OLD ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

NEW ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

EFFECTIVE DATE _____

CLIP THIS FORM AND SEND TO:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

2153 / 03-94

decide the championship of the senior circuit. He is getting older himself and his wars over the last two years with Vader have only expedited the aging process. The aches and pains don't disappear as quickly as they used to and he knows he has limited time left at the top.

Privately, Sting has expressed a desire to get out of wrestling in the near future. He has already taken steps in that direction with his appearances on *Thunder In Paradise*. His disdain for contemporary wrestling was evident in a recent interview where he frowned upon the specialty matches now dotting nearly every federation, including his own. His contract with WCW expires in 1995 and those close to him say that by then, he might consider retiring.

Sting should negotiate a buyout of his contract and move to the WWF. A title in the WWF would affirm Sting's greatness, putting him

in select company with Buddy Rogers, Flair, and perhaps Hogan as the only men to win the belt in both major federations. But that is simply fodder for historians.

The sudden shift would sway the balance of power between the federations, which right now is tilted heavily toward WCW. Sting would give a badly needed boost to the WWF in two areas where it has taken a tremendous beating over the past two years—positive publicity and scientific skill level. And by moving to the WWF, Sting would also take some of the spotlight off the Flair-Hogan matches, which should have happened years ago when both men were in their prime.

Face it, fans. If you had \$25 to spend on a pay-per-view title match and you wanted to be sure you got your money's worth, and Sting wrestled Hart for the WWF title at the same time that Flair wrestled Hogan for the WCW belt, which match would you order? ☐

The Insider

(Continued from page 14)

tional cable promotion. It seemed as if every wrestler of note was planning a trip to Dallas.

From what I'd read and heard, the Von Erichs were a family of angels on loan from God. Even then I had a healthy suspicion of fan favorites, and it was hard to believe anyone could be the good Christian soldiers everyone alleged the Von Erichs to be. But you don't write sports if you don't believe in heroes. I was excited to meet them.

In the dressing room I was introduced to Kerry and Kevin. There was something off about Kerry; he appeared distracted, withdrawn. Kevin ignored me completely. Later that night at a Chinese restaurant, Kerry drained cocktail after cocktail until he became uncomfortably drunk.

Let's be clear about this. I didn't rail against the Von Erichs because one night long ago Kerry tied one on. What I did learn firsthand that night was that the Von Erich boys behaved no differently than, say, The Freebirds. Without the halos, they were like most other professional wrestlers. The hypocrisy that turned them into choir boys is what I couldn't bear.

I launched an attack, writing "the Von Erichs are emissaries of God—the gods of greed, invention, corruption, and avarice." And, bless your hearts, y'all attacked right back at me. Letters, cards, death threats in crayon from children flooded my desk. A Dallas reverend wrote on church stationery that I would "fry in hell's hottest flames."

Our dance continued through the mail. You berated me for pinning Mike's suicide on the burden of expectation you and his family put



Kerry Von Erich was nearly deified by many wrestling fans in 1984 after he beat Ric Flair for the NWA World title. Ellner met him about that time and came to despise what he saw as the hypocritical hype surrounding Kerry and his brothers.

on the shoulders of a sickly, unskilled wrestler. You screamed after reading my column criticizing the family for pushing Chris into the ring.

The kid had no business in the ring—he was asthmatic, never much of an athlete. The pressure to perform, as it was in Mike's case, was too great. Was I wrong? And what about Kerry? It was no secret he had a drug problem. His injuries after the motorcycle accident were massive. But after begging him to retire, all I got from his fans were letters claiming I don't understand. In fact, I still receive letters threatening my life for all the nasty comments I wrote. I imagine these fans share a gene pool with the nut jobs who peddle the "Free O.J. Simpson" T-shirts.

Do you understand the lineage? The danger in venerating athletes

who share the same fatal shortcomings we all do? I'm not placing the blame entirely on you. The media are equally guilty of false hero-worship. We invent supermen, then vilify them when they fail to live up to our impossible standards. After Kerry's suicide, I had an eerie feeling. It was as if George Reeves, the actor who played Superman on TV, had killed himself for being unable to outrace a speeding bullet.

Our expectations are the speeding bullet and no athlete, not Magic or Jordan or Griffey or Hogan, can keep pace. The Von Erichs were a family of very good to very mediocre wrestlers. We chose to make them a family of golden calves. We prayed at their feet, ignored their faults.

We all paid the price. Let's not make the same mistakes again. □

On Assignment

(Continued from page 16)

water's flowed under both our bridges since then. As far as I'm concerned, the next time I see Flair will be the first time."

Maybe that's what the marketing department was trying to say in their promos. In the bizarre world of professional wrestling, virtual reality is the only reality that really matters.

Alive and hissing. Capitalize bizarre, bold and underline it, and perhaps you might comprehend my present position. I am about 40 miles southwest of Knoxville, Tennessee, at a barbecue on the grounds of a cottage rented by Jake (No Longer The Snake) Roberts and several companions. Jim Cornette is here in charge of salads. Kendo the Samurai is rolling sushi. Bruiser Bedlam guards the keg.

A pig is roasted. On the porker's head is a turban and sunglasses, resembling those worn by "Macho Man" Randy Savage. In case you still didn't get the connection, a handwritten sign beneath the pig says, "Savage on a Spit. Dig it!" The swine is surrounded by Slim Jims.

"Jake throws the best parties," said one reveler, chewing on a barbecued snake sandwich. You read that right. In case you wondered what Jake did with his slithering serpent collection, step right up to the picnic table and taste for yourself.

"It tastes like chicken," Cornette assures us. I pass, opting for some very skillfully sliced tuna rolls.

"This I do to Savage if he comes around here," says Kendo, slicing the head off a soft shell crab. "He should stay behind the microphone where he belongs."

Not everyone agrees. "Nothing



Jake Roberts has no love for Randy Savage, and proved it at a recent barbecue when he decorated a pig to mock the "Macho Man." What was also on the menu rolled snake eyes with Liz.

would give me more pleasure than to end Savage's career," says Jake. "I'd do him a favor. He's been hanging by a thread for years. Even [Vince] McMahon had to help him beat Jerry Lawler. That's lower, that lower than a ..."

"Snake sandwich," I volunteer.

"You can say that again," he smiled. "Tastes just like chicken.

Wonder what Savage would taste like."

I imagine Savage on the spit, can't shake the image from my head. I sit down, dizzy. I don't feel so good. What's in this punch anyway?

"A little snake venom," Jake replies. "You get to see the world through my eyes." □

Inside Wrestling

Back Issues of

Be sure to fill in the gaps in your collection of **INSIDE WRESTLING**, "The magazine that rips the lid off pro wrestling." Get all the information you need to keep up on the pro wrestling scene. Don't be left out. Avoid sellouts—order today!

May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.
June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.
July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.
September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.
October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.
November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.
December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.
January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.
February 1986/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.
March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude.
April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts.
May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Roll.
June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.
July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.
August 1986/Stories include: WrestleMania 2, Garvins, Martel, Fab Ones.
September 1986/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes-T.A., Adams, Windham.
October 1986/Stories include: Flair-Luger, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.
November 1986/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.
December 1986/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.
February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.
March 1987/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.
April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.
May 1987/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.
June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.
July 1987/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons.
August 1987/Stories include: Dusty &

Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.
September 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Race, R&R Exp., Rich, Honky Tonk.
October 1987/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.
November 1987/Stories include: War Games, Mr. T, Bulldogs, Rhodes.
December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.
January 1988/Stories include: R&R-Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.
February 1988/Stories include: Savage, Kevin Von, Sting, Tully & Arn.
March 1988/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.
April 1988/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-DiBiase.
May 1988/Stories include: Zbyszko, DiBiase, Warriors, Rockers, Fritz Von.
June 1988/Stories include: Warriors, Savage, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
July 1988/Stories include: Hogan-Savage-DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting.
August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Missy Hyatt, Sting, Hayes, Honky Tonk.
October 1988/Stories include: Megapowers vs. Megabucks, Horsemen, Lawler.
November 1988/Stories include: Rhodes, Kerry, Luger, Muraco, Freebirds.
December 1988/Stories include: Powers of Pain, Ultimate, Flair, Piper.
January 1989/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Sting, Arn, Kerry-Lawler.
February 1989/Stories include: Hogan-Bossman, Tully & Arn, Warriors-Windham-Sting.
March 1989/Stories include: Hennig, Midnight, Fuller & Golden, Ultimate.
May 1989/Stories include: Hogan, Steiner, Morton, Bad Co., Taylor.
June 1989/Stories include: Hogan-Savage, Luger, Steamboat-Flair.
July 1989/Stories include: Savage, Windham, Kerry, Demolition, Sting.
August 1989/Stories include: Hulkamania, Steamboat, Rude, Cornette.
September 1989/Stories include: Savage-Hogan, Luger, Mascaras, Rhodes.
October 1989/Stories include: Hall & Pillman & Vicious, Hennig, Swats vs. Warriors, Rhodes.
November 1989/Stories include: Elizabeth, Sting, Luger, Paul E., Mascaras.

December 1989/Stories include: Rhodes, Flair, Hogan-Zeus, Embry.
January 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Sting-Flair, Roberts-DiBiase.
February 1990/Stories include: Warriors-Skyscrapers, Zenk, Rude-Piper.
April 1990/Stories include: Starrcade '89, Ultimate, Rhodes, Sawyer.
May 1990/Stories include: Hogan-Ultimate, Luger, Woman, Lawler, LPWA.
June 1990/Stories include: Sting, Saito-Zbyszko, Earthquake, Ultimate, Jarrett.
July 1990/Stories include: Steiners, Sting, Warrior & Hogan, Earthquake.
August 1990/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Hogan, Warrior, Taylor.
September 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Duggan, JYD, Adams, Horsemen.
October 1990/Stories include: Sting, Legion of Doom, Bushwhackers, Gigante.
November 1990/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Vicious, Slaughter, Orient.
December 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Sting, Kerry, Cornette, Zbyszko.
January 1991/Stories include: LOD, Adams, Steiners, Lawler-Funk.
February 1991/Stories include: Taylor, Hogan, Martel, Sting, all-annoying team.
March 1991/Stories include: Hogan-Earthquake, Roberts-Martel, Sting.
April 1991/Stories include: Flair-Sting, Steiners, Piper, Zbyszko, Slaughter.
May 1991/Stories include: Savage-Warrior, Steiners, Sting, Virgil.
June 1991/Stories include: Steiners, LOD, Koloff, I-C belt, Dundees.
July 1991/Stories include: Hogan, Virgil, Funk, Nastys, Steiners, Spivey.
August 1991/Stories include: Warrior-Undertaker, Steiners, Flair, Steamboat.
September 1991/Stories include: Justice-Hogan, Hyatt, Rude, Hennig.
October 1991/Stories include: Savage & Liz, Hogan & Warrior, Luger.
November 1991/Stories include: Hogan-Savage, Luger, Flair, War Games.
December 1991/Stories include: SummerSlam, York, Simmons.
January 1992/Stories include: Sting, Freebirds, Hart, Rhodes, Rotundo.
February 1992/Stories include: Luger, Hart, Patriot, Rude, Thesz-Rogers.
April 1992/Stories include: Hart, Steiners,

Liger-Pillman, Roberts.
May 1992/Stories include: Justice-Hogan, Liger, Gilbert, Repo Man.
June 1992/Stories include: Sting, Hogan, Race, M.A. Bagwell, Atlas.
July 1992/Stories include: Undertaker, Vader, Sherri/Michaels, Madusa.
August 1992/Stories include: Savage-Flair, Jack-Badd, Christopher, LOD.
September 1992/Stories include: War Games, Hogan, Vader, Kamala.
October 1992/Stories include: SummerSlam, Steiner-Muta, Simmons.
November 1992/Stories include: Flair, Warrior, Vader, top rope rule.
December 1992/Stories include: Flair, Ramon, Heavenly Bodies, Jarrett.
February 1993/Stories include: LOD, Smoky Mountain, Rude, Jimmy Hart.
March 1993/Stories include: Michaels, Nikita Koloff, Windham-Rhodes.
May 1993/Stories include: WrestleMania IX analysis, Andre tribute, Muta.
June 1993/Stories include: Doink, Vader-Sting, Jimmy Hart, Steiners, Lawler.
July 1993/Stories include: Bravo, Gonzales, Bulldog, Ramon, Arn, Tatanka.
August 1993/Stories include: Christopher-Michaels, Hogan-Yokozuna, Hart.
September 1993/Stories include: Steiners, Slamboree, Ramon, Sting & Smith, Hart.
October 1993/Stories include: SummerSlam preview, Money Inc., Nanny Simpson, Vader-Vicious, Hart-Lawler.
November 1993/Stories include: Heavenly Bodies, Jannetty, Rude-Flair, Hogan, Luger, Power Bombs.
December 1993/Stories include: Fytch, Austin, Luger, Sting & Flair, Yokozuna.
February 1994/Stories include: Hogan, Duggan, Doinks, Blonds, holiday wishes.
March 1994/Stories include: Nastys, Parker, Borge, 1994 predictions.
May 1994/Stories include: Flair-Rude, Hart, Luger, Morton, Heenan-Bockwinkel.
June 1994/Stories include: Steamboat, Snuka, Anthony, Bruise Bros., Blayze.
August 1994/Stories include: Piper, Hogan, 911, Freebirds, rulebreakers.
September 1994/Stories include: Undertaker, Nastys, Volkoff, Flair-Steamboat.

- | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AUG 75 | <input type="checkbox"/> OCT 82 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAY 85 | <input type="checkbox"/> AUG 87 | <input type="checkbox"/> DEC 89 | <input type="checkbox"/> APR 92 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MAR 76 | <input type="checkbox"/> NOV 82 | <input type="checkbox"/> JUNE 85 | <input type="checkbox"/> SEPT 87 | <input type="checkbox"/> JAN 90 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAY 92 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AUG 76 | <input type="checkbox"/> DEC 82 | <input type="checkbox"/> JULY 85 | <input type="checkbox"/> OCT 87 | <input type="checkbox"/> FEB 90 | <input type="checkbox"/> JUNE 92 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OCT 76 | <input type="checkbox"/> FEB 83 | <input type="checkbox"/> SEPT 85 | <input type="checkbox"/> NOV 87 | <input type="checkbox"/> APR 90 | <input type="checkbox"/> JULY 92 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NOV 76 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAR 83 | <input type="checkbox"/> OCT 85 | <input type="checkbox"/> DEC 87 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAY 90 | <input type="checkbox"/> AUG 92 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AUG 77 | <input type="checkbox"/> APR 83 | <input type="checkbox"/> NOV 85 | <input type="checkbox"/> JAN 88 | <input type="checkbox"/> JUNE 90 | <input type="checkbox"/> SEPT 92 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SEPT 77 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAY 83 | <input type="checkbox"/> DEC 85 | <input type="checkbox"/> FEB 88 | <input type="checkbox"/> JULY 90 | <input type="checkbox"/> OCT 92 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OCT 77 | <input type="checkbox"/> JUNE 83 | <input type="checkbox"/> JAN 86 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAR 88 | <input type="checkbox"/> AUG 90 | <input type="checkbox"/> NOV 92 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MAR 78 | <input type="checkbox"/> JULY 83 | <input type="checkbox"/> FEB 86 | <input type="checkbox"/> APR 88 | <input type="checkbox"/> SEPT 90 | <input type="checkbox"/> DEC 92 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> APR 78 | <input type="checkbox"/> AUG 83 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAR 86 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAY 88 | <input type="checkbox"/> OCT 90 | <input type="checkbox"/> FEB 93 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DEC 78 | <input type="checkbox"/> SEPT 83 | <input type="checkbox"/> APR 86 | <input type="checkbox"/> JUNE 88 | <input type="checkbox"/> NOV 90 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAR 93 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> JAN 79 | <input type="checkbox"/> OCT 83 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAY 86 | <input type="checkbox"/> JULY 88 | <input type="checkbox"/> DEC 90 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAY 93 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> JUNE 79 | <input type="checkbox"/> NOV 83 | <input type="checkbox"/> JUNE 86 | <input type="checkbox"/> AUG 88 | <input type="checkbox"/> JAN 91 | <input type="checkbox"/> JUN 93 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SEPT 79 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAR 84 | <input type="checkbox"/> JULY 86 | <input type="checkbox"/> OCT 88 | <input type="checkbox"/> FEB 91 | <input type="checkbox"/> JUL 93 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FEB 80 | <input type="checkbox"/> APR 84 | <input type="checkbox"/> AUG 86 | <input type="checkbox"/> NOV 88 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAR 91 | <input type="checkbox"/> AUG 93 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MAY 80 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAY 84 | <input type="checkbox"/> SEPT 86 | <input type="checkbox"/> DEC 88 | <input type="checkbox"/> APR 91 | <input type="checkbox"/> SEP 93 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> JUNE 80 | <input type="checkbox"/> JUNE 84 | <input type="checkbox"/> OCT 86 | <input type="checkbox"/> JAN 89 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAY 91 | <input type="checkbox"/> OCT 93 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> APR 81 | <input type="checkbox"/> JULY 84 | <input type="checkbox"/> NOV 86 | <input type="checkbox"/> FEB 89 | <input type="checkbox"/> JUNE 91 | <input type="checkbox"/> NOV 93 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SEPT 81 | <input type="checkbox"/> AUG 84 | <input type="checkbox"/> DEC 86 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAR 89 | <input type="checkbox"/> JULY 91 | <input type="checkbox"/> DEC 93 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MAR 82 | <input type="checkbox"/> SEPT 84 | <input type="checkbox"/> JAN 87 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAY 89 | <input type="checkbox"/> AUG 91 | <input type="checkbox"/> FEB 94 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> APR 82 | <input type="checkbox"/> NOV 84 | <input type="checkbox"/> FEB 87 | <input type="checkbox"/> JUNE 89 | <input type="checkbox"/> SEPT 91 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAR 94 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MAY 82 | <input type="checkbox"/> DEC 84 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAR 87 | <input type="checkbox"/> JULY 89 | <input type="checkbox"/> OCT 91 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAY 94 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> JUNE 82 | <input type="checkbox"/> JAN 85 | <input type="checkbox"/> APR 87 | <input type="checkbox"/> AUG 89 | <input type="checkbox"/> NOV 91 | <input type="checkbox"/> JUNE 94 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> JULY 82 | <input type="checkbox"/> FEB 85 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAY 87 | <input type="checkbox"/> SEPT 89 | <input type="checkbox"/> DEC 91 | <input type="checkbox"/> AUG 94 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AUG 82 | <input type="checkbox"/> MAR 85 | <input type="checkbox"/> JUNE 87 | <input type="checkbox"/> OCT 89 | <input type="checkbox"/> JAN 92 | <input type="checkbox"/> SEPT 94 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SEPT 82 | <input type="checkbox"/> APR 85 | <input type="checkbox"/> JULY 87 | <input type="checkbox"/> NOV 89 | <input type="checkbox"/> FEB 92 | |

INSIDE WRESTLING

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:

LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. BOX 956
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

ONLY
\$3 EACH

Please send me the back issues I've checked. I enclose \$_____ (U.S. FUNDS ONLY) as payment in full. PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

For all orders except the U.S., you must add \$1.50 for every back issue to be sent boat mail, and \$3 for every back issue to be sent airmail. Int'l money order in U.S. funds only.

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery

In case of a sellout, indicate substitute choice: _____

OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

1—BRET HART

(1) WWF World champion

2—HULK HOGAN

(-) WCW World champion

3—RIC FLAIR

(2) No. 2 contender: WCW World title

4—STEVE AUSTIN

(11) U.S. heavyweight champion

5—DIESEL

(7) WWF Intercontinental champion

6—STEVE REGAL

(12) WCW TV champion

7—YOKOZUNA

(-) No. 4 contender: WWF World title

8—TONY ANTHONY

(10) Smoky Mountain champion

9—STING

(4) No. 8 contender: WCW World title

10—LEX LUGER

(14) No. 11 contender: WWF World title

11—OWEN HART

(3) No. 2 contender: WWF World title

12—BIG VAN VADER

(6) No. 5 contender: WCW World title

13—SABU

(13) No. 2 contender: ECW title

14—RANDY SAVAGE

(-) No. 3 contender: WWF World title

15—RAZOR RAMON

(5) No. 10 contender: WWF World title

WCW

1—HULK HOGAN

(-) 275, Venice Beach, CA

2—STEVE AUSTIN

(2) 241, Dallas, TX

3—RIC FLAIR

(1) 243, Minneapolis, MN

4—STEVE REGAL

(7) 247, Blackpool, England

5—RICK STEAMBOAT

(3) 238, Honolulu, HI

6—BIG VAN VADER

(4) 450, Denver, CO

7—DUSTIN RHODES

(9) 254, Austin, TX

8—JOHNNY B. BADD

(13) 235, Macon, GA

9—STING

(5) 260, Venice Beach, CA

10—THE GUARDIAN ANGEL

(10) 310, Cobb County, GA

11—BUNKHOUSE BUCK

(8) 239, Bucksport, TN

12—BRIAN PILLMAN

(12) 226, Cincinnati, OH

13—ARN ANDERSON

(11) 249, Minneapolis, MN

14—ERIK WATTS

(14) 262, Tulsa, OK

15—LARRY ZBYSKO

(6) 248, Pittsburgh, PA

WWF

1—BRET HART

(1) 234, Calgary, Alberta

2—DIESEL

(2) 356, Las Vegas, NV

3—OWEN HART

(3) 227, Calgary, Alberta

4—RANDY SAVAGE

(-) 237, Sarasota, FL

5—YOKOZUNA

(13) 568, Samoa

6—JERRY LAWLER

(12) 234, Memphis, TN

7—IRWIN R. SCHYSTER

(7) 248, Syracuse, NY

8—KWANG THE NINJA

(-) 250, parts unknown

9—TATANKA

(8) 250, Pembroke, NC

10—BOB BACKLUND

(-) 234, Princeton, MN

11—RAZOR RAMON

(4) 287, Miami, FL

12—LEX LUGER

(-) 265, Chicago, IL

13—THE KID

(5) 212, Minneapolis, MN

14—CRUSH

(15) 322, Kona, HI

15—JEFF JARRETT

(10) 230, Nashville, TN

MOST POPULAR

1—HULK HOGAN

Last issue: unrated

2—BRET HART

Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular

3—RAZOR RAMON

Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular

4—THE UNDERTAKER

Last issue: No. 6 Most Popular

5—STING

Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular

6—LEX LUGER

Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular

7—RICK STEAMBOAT

Last issue: No. 5 Most Popular

8—RANDY SAVAGE

Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular

9—TATANKA

Last issue: No. 8 Most Popular

10—DUSTIN RHODES

Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular

11—TONY ANTHONY

Last issue: No. 10 Most Popular

12—RODDY PIPER

Last issue: No. 12 Most Popular

13—SABU

Last issue: No. 14 Most Popular

14—THE KID

Last issue: No. 15 Most Popular

15—JERRY LAWLER

Last issue: No. 11 Most Popular

MOST HATED

1—OWEN HART

Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated

2—BIG VAN VADER

Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated

3—JERRY LAWLER

Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated

4—DIESEL

Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated

5—CRUSH

Last issue: No. 6 Most Hated

6—IRWIN R. SCHYSTER

Last issue: No. 7 Most Hated

7—BAM BAM BIGELOW

Last issue: No. 8 Most Hated

8—JAKE ROBERTS

Last issue: No. 9 Most Hated

9—YOKOZUNA

Last issue: No. 11 Most Hated

10—BUNKHOUSE BUCK

Last issue: No. 12 Most Hated

11—JIM NEIDHART

Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated

12—CHRIS CANDIDO

Last issue: No. 14 Most Hated

13—EDDIE GILBERT

Last issue: No. 15 Most Hated

14—BRUISER BEDLAM

Last issue: No. 10 Most Hated

15—NIKOLAI VOLKOFF

Last issue: No. 13 Most Hated

TOP 15

1—THE HEADSHRINKERS

(1) WWF World tag team champions

2—PAUL ORNDORFF & PAUL ROMA

(12) WCW World tag team champions

3—CHRIS CANDIDO & BRIAN LEE

(5) Smoky Mountain tag team champions

4—THE NASTY BOYS

(3) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title

5—CACTUS JACK & KEVIN SULLIVAN

(2) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title

6—PG-13

(9) USWA tag team champions

7—PUBLIC ENEMY

(6) ECW tag team champions

8—MARCUS BAGWELL & THE PATRIOT

(15) No. 3 contenders: WCW World tag title

9—SCOTT & STEVE ARMSTRONG

(-) No. 1 contenders: Smoky Mountain tag title

10—DORY FUNK JR. & TERRY FUNK

(-) No. 1 contenders: ECW tag title

11—BOBBY EATON & STEVE KEIRN

(-) No. 4 contenders: WCW World tag title

12—CRUSH & YOKOZUNA

(4) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title

13—THE ELIMINATORS

(14) No. 1 contenders: USWA tag title

14—THE QUEBECERS

(8) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title

15—BRET HART & LEX LUGER

(-) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue... "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices ... Championships highlighted in bold on the "Roll Call Of Champions" have changed hands since our previous issue ... The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

For period ended July 17, 1994

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

AAA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: EL HIJO DEL SANTO & OCTAGON
(November 5, 1993; defeated Love Machine & Eddy Guerrero; Tonalá, Mexico)

ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DAN KROFFAT & DOUG FURNAS
(September 9, 1993; from The Patriot & The Eagle; Omiya, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: MITSUWARA MISAWA
(August 22, 1992; from Stan Hansen; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUJII
(January 25, 1994; from Dan Kroffat; Miyagi, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MITSUWARA MISAWA & KENTA KOBASHI
(December 3, 1993; defeated Akira Taue & Toshiaki Kawada in tournament final; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: MITSUWARA MISAWA
(August 22, 1992; from Stan Hansen; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S ALL-PACIFIC CHAMPION: YOKO INOUE
(March 27, 1994; defeated Toshiyo Yamada; Yokohama, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: KAORU ITO
(May 4, 1994; defeated Rie Tamada in tournament final; Toda, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: AJA KONG
(November 26, 1992; from Bull Nakano; Kawasaki, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CANDY OKUTSU
(December 6, 1993; from Chapparrita Asari; Osaka, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MINAMI TOYOTA & TOSHIYO YAMADA
(December 6, 1993; from Dynamite Kansai & Mayumi Ozaki; Osaka, Japan)

ALL STATE WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: RICK CANNON
(July 7, 1994; from Tony Prichard; Maryville, TN)

ALL STATE WRESTLING JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BOBBIE FIELDS
(October 14, 1993; from Charles Long; Maryville, TN)

AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: T. RANTULA
(March 26, 1994; from Rip Sawyer; Johnsonburg, PA)

AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JOHNNY GRAHAM
(May 29, 1994; from Lord Zoltan; Lancaster, PA)

AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE BAD CREW
(September 30, 1993; title previously vacant; York, PA)

AMERICAN STATES WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SCOTT SOMERS
(November 19, 1993; from Bo Dacious; Mansfield, OH)

ATLANTIC WRESTLING COUNCIL LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPION: BOBBY ROGERS
(December 4, 1993; from Blare Rogers; Hollywood, FL)

ATLANTIC WRESTLING COUNCIL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: T.J. JACKSON & THE MISER
(July 2, 1993; from American Scorpion & The Falcon; West Palm Beach, FL)

CENTURY WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS
(December 4, 1993; from Vic Steamboat; Tewksbury, MA)

CENTURY WRESTLING ALLIANCE LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: RAY ODYSSEY
(December 4, 1993; from El Mascaraado; Tewksbury, MA)

CONTINENTAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: VIC STEAMBOAT
(October 23, 1993; from The Iron Sheik; Wakefield, MA)

CONTINENTAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: RAY ODYSSEY
(October 23, 1993; from Flax Lavender; Wakefield, MA)

ECW HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SHANE DOUGLAS
(March 26, 1994; from Terry Funk; Devon, PA)

ECW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: PUBLIC ENEMY
(March 6, 1994; from Kevin Sullivan & Tasmaniac; Philadelphia, PA)

ECW TELEVISION CHAMPION: MIKEY WHIPWRECK
(May 13, 1994; from Pit Bull Psycho Mike; Philadelphia, PA)

GWF HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CHRIS ADAMS
(July 1, 1994; from Rod Price; Dallas, TX)

GWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JIM GARVIN & TERRY GORDY
(June 3, 1994; from Black Bart & John Hawk; Dallas, TX)

IPWA CHAMPION: TITLE HELD UP
(Most recently held by Vern Henderson)

ICW HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: THE IRANIAN BUTCHER
(July 13, 1994; from Marc Ash; Fair Bluff, NC)

IWC HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: KONNAN
(April 2, 1994; from Cien Caras; Reynosa, Mexico)

IWCCW LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JOE SAVOLDI
(December 26, 1991; from Tasmaniac; Monticello, NY)

IWCCW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE SIOUX WAR PARTY
(May 9, 1992; defeated The Canadians in tournament final; Hamburg, PA)

IWGP CHAMPION: SHINYA HASHIMOTO
(May 1, 1994; from Tatsumi Fujinami; Fukuoka, Japan)

IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: KENSUKE SASAKI & HAWK
(January 4, 1994; from Scott Norton & Hercules; Tokyo, Japan)

IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JUSHIN UGER
(January 4, 1993; from Ultimo Dragon; Tokyo, Japan)

MIDWEST TERRITORIAL WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MACHINE GUN KELLY
(July 16, 1994; from Al Snow; Taylor, MI)

MIDWEST TERRITORIAL WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE INTERNATIONAL FREEDOM FIGHTERS
(July 16, 1994; from Road Warrior Hawk & Bobo Brazil Jr.; Taylor, MI)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: MITSUWARA MISAWA
(August 22, 1992; from Stan Hansen; Tokyo, Japan)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MITSUWARA MISAWA & KENTA KOBASHI
(December 3, 1993; defeated Akira Taue & Toshiaki Kawada in tournament final; Tokyo, Japan)

PLANT CITY WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: LUSCIOUS LUKE
(May 19, 1994; from Vern Henderson; Plant City, Florida)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT
(Most recently held by Italian Stallion)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: CRUEL CONNECTION II
(February 12, 1994; from American G.I.; Point Pleasant, WV)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BRIAN WILLIAMS
(April 29, 1994; from George South; Kings Mountain, NC)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: GEORGE SOUTH & ITALIAN STALLION
(May 28, 1994; from Terry Austin & Austin Steele; Inman, SC)

SMOKY MOUNTAIN HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TONY ANTHONY
(July 5, 1994; from Jake Roberts; Warrensville, NC)

SMOKY MOUNTAIN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: CHRIS CANDIDO & BRIAN LEE
(April 23, 1994; from The Rock 'n' Roll Express; Johnson City, TN)

SMOKY MOUNTAIN U.S. JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CHRIS CANDIDO
(November 13, 1993; from Bobby Blaze; Morristown, TN)

TENNESSEE ALL-STAR WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TOMMY RICH
(September 23, 1993; from Buddy Landell; Maryville, TN)

TENNESSEE ALL-STAR WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: PAUL RAY & JOHNNY RAYNOR
(September 23, 1993; from Tom Pliner & Deke Rivers; Maryville, TN)

USWA CHAMPION: SID VICIOUS
(July 16, 1994; by forfeit from Jerry Lawler; Memphis, TN)

USWA SOUTHERN CHAMPION: BRIAN CHRISTOPHER
(July 11, 1994; from Troy Graham; Memphis, TN)

USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: PG-13
(June 13, 1994; from The Eliminators; Memphis, TN)

WCW TV CHAMPION: LORD STEVEN REGAL
(June 23, 1994; from Larry Zbyszko; Charleston, SC)

WCW U.S. CHAMPION: STEVE AUSTIN
(December 27, 1993; from Dustin Rhodes; Charlotte, NC)

WCW WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN
(July 17, 1994; from Ric Flair; Orlando, FL)

WCW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: PAUL ORNDORFF & PAUL ROMA
(July 17, 1994; from Cactus Jack & Kevin Sullivan; Orlando, FL)

WINDY CITY WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE SMITH BROTHERS
(November 13, 1993; from The Twin Turbos; Greenville, IL)

WORLD WIDE WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BRUTUS BEEFCAKE
(April 16, 1994; from Nailz; Atlantic City, NJ)

WORLD WIDE WRESTLING ALLIANCE INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: JACK HAMMER
(August 27, 1993; from Tony Atlas; Freeport, Bahamas)

WORLD WIDE WRESTLING ALLIANCE TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE DIAMOND EXPRESS
(March 14, 1994; by officials' decision)

WORLD WRESTLING ALLIANCE TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DUANE & WAYNE GILL
(May 14, 1994; from The Super Jocks; Williamstown, NJ)

WWA FRONTIER MARTIAL ARTS CHAMPION: MR. ONITA
(September 19, 1992; from Tiger Jeet Singh; Yokohama, Japan)

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: DIESEL
(April 13, 1994; from Razor Ramon; Rochester, NY)

WWF WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: ALUNDRA BLAYZE
(December 13, 1993; defeated Heidi Lee Morgan in tournament final; Poughkeepsie, NY)

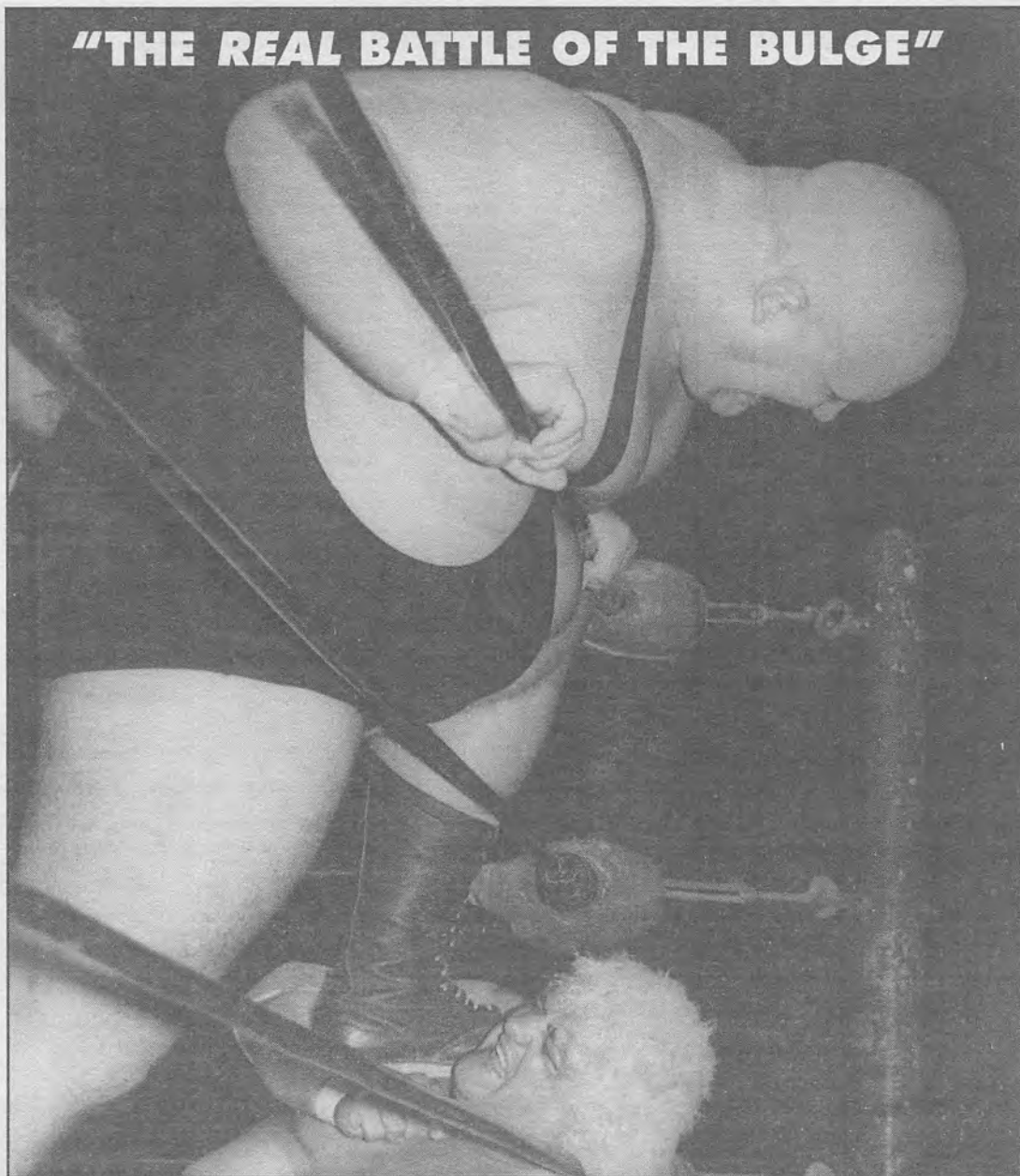
WWF WORLD CHAMPION: BRET HART
(March 20, 1994; from Yokozuna; New York, NY)

WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE HEADSHRINKERS
(April 26, 1994; from The Quebecers; Burlington, VT)

BLAST FROM THE PAST

This Month In Wrestling History

"THE REAL BATTLE OF THE BULGE"

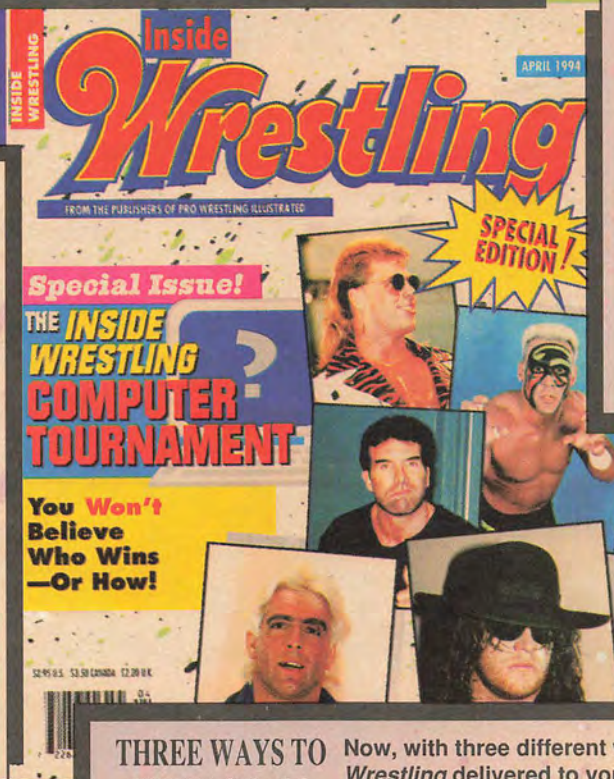


King Kong Bundy vs. Dusty Rhodes September 1983

The ring shook every time these two heavyweights wrestled each other. King Kong Bundy and Dusty Rhodes had a brief but intense feud in Texas 11 years ago. If the rumors are true, you might be seeing one of these two superstars of the 1980s in an arena near you soon. Bundy, who is still semiactive on the independent circuit, is reportedly negotiating with the WWF. And you never know when Dusty might come back to help son Dustin in his feud with Bunkhouse Buck and Terry Funk.

THE MAGAZINE THAT RIPS THE LID OFF PRO WRESTLING!

- In-depth articles from the sport's greatest writers and photographers!
- The famous "Hotseat" interview with one of wrestling's top names!
- "One On One," in which two archrivals meet on the phone to voice their hatred!
- A lively "Capsule Profile"—plus pinup!—of one of your favorite mat stars!
- "Roll Call Of Champions"—the most comprehensive championship directory available anywhere!
- Top 15 ratings in six important categories!
- "Blast From The Past," featuring highlights from the sport's rich history!
- Updates of major mat stars in "Where Are They Now?"
- All this—and more!—every month!



Each month,
Inside Wrestling
works hard and digs
deep to uncover the
behind-the-scenes stories
that you want to read!
Subscribe today—and
save up to 23% off the
newsstand cover price!

THREE WAYS TO GET IN ON ALL THE ACTION!

Now, with three different ways to subscribe, getting *Inside Wrestling* delivered to your door each month is easier than ever! Plus: Your subscription price saves you more, because it includes sensational special issues of *Inside Wrestling*—at no extra cost!

- Get six issues of INSIDE WRESTLING for \$11.70
- Get 12 issues of INSIDE WRESTLING for \$19—an 18% savings off the newsstand price
- Get 24 issues of INSIDE WRESTLING for \$36—a 23% savings off the newsstand price

Send to:

**London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034**

☒ Yes, I would like to subscribe to INSIDE WRESTLING

☐ I am enclosing \$11.70 for a six-issue subscription

☐ I am enclosing \$19 for a 12-issue subscription

☐ I am enclosing \$36 for a 24-issue subscription

☐ NEW

☐ RENEWAL

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please indicate method of payment
(Pennsylvania residents, please add 6% sales tax):

☐ Check or money order
(enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard # _____

Expiration date: _____ / _____
MO / YR

Price offer good in U.S. and Canada only. All other countries: \$16.50 for six issues (\$22.20 airmail), \$28.60 for 12 issues (\$40 airmail), and \$55.20 for 24 issues (\$78 airmail). For all orders outside U.S., international money order in U.S. funds only. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first issue.

2306/04-94

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

UPDATED EVERY
MONDAY
AND THURSDAY NIGHT

HOTLINE

When it comes to wrestling, *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* magazine has all the inside information you want and it's only a phone call away.

If it happens in the ring, the locker room, or on the road, you'll hear it here first.

To get all the breaking stories from every federation, call the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Hotline now and you'll be the first to learn about ...

Exclusive news from behind the scenes

Upcoming events

Up-to-date results from around the world

Title changes and transactions

Pay-per-view reports

Wrestler of the week

Plus ... Tell the editors of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* what you want to see in the magazine. Dictate a letter to the Editor-in-Chief. Selected letters will be printed in *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*.

CALL NOW

IN THE U.S., 1-900-884-4PWI

IN THE U.K., 0891 299 712



This service is available on both touch-tone and rotary-dial phones.

*Cost per minute in the United States is \$1.49 per. Cost per minute in the United Kingdom is 36p cheap rate and 48p at all other times, incl. VAT.

Kids, get your parents' permission.
BCM Box 6424, London WC1N 3XX



IN THE U.K., 0891 299 712



IN THE U.S., 1-900-884-4PWI